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The Pittsburgh Commercial

VOL. IX.—NO. 16. WEEKLY EDITION. FEBRUARY 24, 1872.

HARRISBURG.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

No Action in McClure-Gray Case.

Geo. O. Evans Dangerously Ill.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 15, 1872.

SENATE.

Compulsory Vaccination.

The Speaker laid before the Senate a memorial of the Philadelphia Board of Health for universal compulsory vaccination.

Propagation of Fish.

Mr. Petriken introduced a resolution referring the report of the Commission for the Restoration of Inland Fisheries to a select committee of five, instructed to carry out the recommendations therein contained as to the propagation of fish and the construction of fish ladders in dams of the Juniata, Lehigh, Susquehanna and Monongahela rivers and tributaries. Adopted, and Messrs. Petriken, Furman, Dill, Warfel and Allen appointed on said committee.

The McClure-Gray Contest.

The bill reported last Monday by the majority of the McClure-Gray Committee for the regulation of contested elections was considered and postponed for the present, when the Senate negatived the Billingfelt bill of yesterday by a tie vote, the Republicans all voting aye and the Democrats no, the latter insisting on the amendment of the act of 1839, so as to make the time for the petition run ten days after date of returns of contested election.

Afternoon Session.

The McClure-Gray discussion was continued. Mr. Billingfelt moved that the House bill by substituting his method of selecting the seventh member of the Committee, which was defeated by a tie vote, the Democrats voting no. The Senate then refused to concur in the House bill by an almost unanimous *viva voce* vote. Republican Senators are disposed to make Mr. Billingfelt's bill their ultimatum, while Democrats insist that the untimely now bill for drawing committees is uncalled for, and should alone be determined on by the Constitutional Convention.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The bill providing against the evils of selling intoxicating liquors was made the special order for February 21st.

The joint resolution removing the present quarantine and establishing joint quarantine by Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, was killed.

The bill from the Senate enlarging the powers of Courts to grant charters was passed.

Afternoon Session.

The special order was the constitutional convention bill, reported by Mr. White, providing for a convention next summer and the election of delegates on the 14th of May next. Mr. Elliott offered a substitute embracing the bill of last winter, but providing for an election next October to avoid the expense of a special election, and fixing April 15th, 1873, for the meeting of the convention. Laid over, when further consideration was postponed till Wednesday.

The House insisted on its amendment to the McGarvey bill, and Messrs. White, Elliott and Dougherty appointed a committee of conference.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 17, 1872.

SENATE.

Mr. Graham introduced a bill incorporating Ursiline Academy for young ladies.

A New Bill for Drawing Committee on Contested Election.

A message from the House being before the Senate, insisting on its amendment to the Senate McClure-Gray bill, and announcing a committee of conference, Mr. Buckalew introduced a resolution for the appointment of a conference committee on the part of the Senate, to meet the House committee and propose the following bill:

That it shall be held to be the intent and meaning of the act passed May 8th, 1839, that the time for the presentation of a petition contesting the election of a Senator or Representative shall commence to run from the return of the election of such Senator or Representative, and not from the time such return is made, if such body shall then be organized; and if not, then within ten days after such organization; but in any case of contested election the six months limited in the said act for the presentation of such petition or before the term of Tuesday next after the first Monday in January next, whichever shall first occur; and the Senate shall proceed to the election of seven persons, being one more than the number of the Committee, to be taken by ballot, each Senator voting for no more than three members, and the remaining members of the committee shall be chosen out of the number voted for by the Senators of all the remaining Senators present, except those of the Speaker of the Senate, which shall be given on distinct pieces of paper, as nearly alike as may be, each of which shall be rolled up and put into a box or urn by the Clerk, and thereupon some person appointed to act in his stead, and the box or urn shall be shaken by the Speaker, and the Clerk of the Senate or the person appointed to act in his stead having thoroughly shaken and thoroughly mixed the same, shall draw them out one by one, and the names of Senators so drawn shall be declared by the Speaker, and if more than one of the clerks until thirteen names shall have been drawn; the separate list of thirteen Senators so drawn shall be given to each of the parties to said contest, who shall, accompanied by the clerk or other persons appointed to act in his stead, immediately withdraw to some adjoining room, where they shall proceed to strike off alternately the names of seven persons from said list, beginning with the first drawn, and the Senator whose name shall remain shall thereupon be the seventh member of said committee.

SEC. 2. The committee chosen as aforesaid shall be duly organized and sworn, and shall have power and duties as the same as those of the Senatorial Election Committee under the aforesaid act of the 23rd of March, 1869, and if any vacancy occurring in said committee shall be filled as follows: If such vacancy shall be of the member chosen by the whole Senate, it shall be filled by a new appointment made in open Senate by the same or other mode as that by which the Senators who shall have voted for the member whose place is to be filled. If such vacancy shall be of a Senator member of the committee, chosen as aforesaid by lot and challenge, his place shall be filled in the same manner as that in which said seventh member shall have been originally filled. The names of qualified members present being first placed in a box or urn for the purpose of selection, and any member chosen shall be duly notified, and duly sworn and shall perform all the duties and possess all the powers of the original members of the committee from the time of his selection. In no case of the selection of a committee or of the filling of a vacancy shall the sitting member be permitted to vote; and in case of absence or refusal to act of a contestant or of sitting members, the Senate shall appoint some person in his stead.

After a brief Republican caucus this resolution and bill were adopted by a unanimous vote.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Bills Introduced.

By Mr. Wyne, relating to the laws relating to penal proceedings.

By Mr. Ballentine, incorporating the Temperanceville and Pittsburgh Savings Bank; also, authorizing the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company to construct a tunnel to cross the Tripartite Bridge and build branches to Union, Chartiers and Stowe townships, and Allegheny City and Pittsburgh.

By Mr. Edwards, supplement for the Woodruff Sleeping Parlor Coach Company.

By Mr. Taylor, providing for the more safe and speedy collection of debts in Pittsburgh.

Both Houses adjourned till Monday evening.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 19, 1872.

SENATE.

Bills Introduced.

By Mr. Graham, opening Breckenridge avenue, Pittsburgh.

By Mr. Collins, compelling corporations to pay wages in lawful money and preventing the keeping of corporation stores.

Afternoon Session.

The following Senate bills passed: Authorizing the Pittsburgh and Birmingham Passenger Railway Company to issue general mortgage bonds to raise money to pay indebtedness, extend the track, building company's houses, stables and other improvements; supplement for the Western Pennsylvania Steamboat and Monongahela Valley Telegraph Company; amending the charter of the Pittsburgh and Baltimore Coal, Coke and Iron Company.

The following House bills passed: Increasing the pay of election officers in Allegheny county; authorizing the Board of Control of Allegheny county to make rules and regulations and found appropriate funds to maintain a library for the benefit of the public schools and citizens; supplement for the Allegheny County Prison. This bill passed, amended as asked by parties in the interest of the Western Penitentiary. The bill extending the jurisdiction of justices of the peace in Washington county for three hundred dollars was supported by Senators Rutan and Allen, and opposed by Messrs. Wallace, White, Furman and Buckalew, and defeated by a vote of nine to fourteen.

The McClure-Gray Contest—No Conclusion Reached.

No conclusion has yet been reached in the McClure-Gray contest. The Conference Committee met to-night without result. Mr. Hewitt, (Republican) proposed a bill selecting six members of the committee, as proposed in Mr. Buckalew's Senate bill, these six, if possible to select the seventh; if not possible, then the Speaker of the Senate to select ten Senators from each political party, these to be placed in a box and, from which names shall be drawn till but one remains. The committee meets again to-morrow.

Serious Illness of George O. Evans.

The joint commission on the George O. Evans investigation have delayed operations, owing to the absence of Mr. Evans himself, who has been subpœned to answer. The Sergeant-at-Arms has been sent for him several times, but returned the party too ill to come to Harrisburg. There was to have been a meeting of the committee to-morrow night, at which Evans was expected to testify, but the Sergeant-at-Arms telegraphs Senator Graham, chairman of the committee, that Mr. Evans is confined to his bed, with little prospect of his recovery.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Constitutional Convention bill was discussed all evening without result.

Petitions for the Pardon of Marcer and Yerkes—The Governor Refuses to Interfere.

For several days past the Governor has been pressed by written application and by committees for the pardon of Messrs. Marcer and Yerkes. The manuscript petitions are voluminous, and are signed by representatives of the press, financiers, politicians and officials. The Governor has been ill at his residence for several days, but has given attention to the matter, and has expressed himself as decidedly unwilling to interfere with the due course of the law.

The McClure-Gray Case in Washington.

A Washington dispatch, dated the 14th, says: "The report telegraphed here late last night that Colonel McClure was to be refused the usual committee on the part of the Republicans, created quite a sensation among some of the President's friends, who do not hesitate to say that it is an unjustifiable as it is dishonest, and that unless the President disavows it and remedies the outrage, it will recoil upon him. It is known that Col. Gray and Gen. Horace Porter were communicating quite freely by telegraph during the campaign."

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Toledo, Thornton and St. Louis Air Line—Chicago, Continental and Baltimore.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., February 17, 1872.

Two important railroad meetings were held at Bluffton, Wells county, Ind., this week. One in favor of the Toledo, Thornton and St. Louis Air Line Railroad met with the approval of leading representatives of that county. German capitalists have agreed to take stock in this line to the extent of $20,000 per mile. In addition to this, nearly six hundred thousand dollars for grading and furnishing ties for the road through Indiana have been subscribed.

The other meeting favored the Chicago, Continental and Baltimore road, running from Chicago through Rochester, Huntington and Bluffton, Indiana, connecting at Marion, Ohio, with the Baltimore and Ohio road for the East. By a unanimous vote of those present it was decided that Wells county would aid the construction of this road to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars. There is every prospect of the success of this enterprise.

The large blast furnace of Evans & Co., situated at Cleveland, Ohio, was damaged by fire yesterday to the amount of several thousand dollars. Owing to its distance from the telegraph, no particulars are had as yet.

Progress on the Mansfield, Coldwater and Lake Michigan.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Commercial.

MANSFIELD, O., February 18, 1872.

The work on the Mansfield, Coldwater and Lake Michigan Railroad has made rapid progress notwithstanding the severity of the winter. The entire portion in Ohio, except about thirty miles, is graded, and thirty days of good weather will suffice to complete the work. The bridging is in an advanced state, and the work of laying iron will be commenced in this county in a few days. The iron will be delivered March first, and all the cross-ties will be in by the end of April. Thomas A. Scott and the Pennsylvania Company board of directors have promised to have this road finished with cars and equipments. On the Michigan end sixty miles are in operation, eighty graded and tied, and only eight to grade, and early in the season the entire line will be completed, giving an unbroken rail communication with Muskegon, opposite Milwaukee. The connecting line between Toledo and Tiffin will also be furnished with iron and in the early summer months.

John K. Cowan, Esq., of this city, recently elected Prosecuting Attorney of this county, has resigned all the appointments he held under the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company and Secretary of the Shenandoah Valley Road. He leaves for his new field of duty this week.

Lake Erie and Louisville—Lima, Lafayette and Mississippi.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LIMA, O., February 18, 1872.

The Lake Erie and Louisville Railway Company have closed a contract for iron and equipments for its line from Sandusky, Ohio, through Lima to Cambridge, Ind., to be delivered as fast as the Company can prepare the road-bed fifteen hundred tons of iron to be delivered by the 1st of June, and as much more as possible, equal amount June 1st, and two thousand tons July 1st, which will complete the road to St. Mary's Ohio, fifty-two miles, and the remainder for the whole line as soon as it can be used. When completed this will form part of the shortest line between the following points, and the shortest grade of only thirty feet to the mile: First, from Cleveland and Sandusky to Louisville; second, from Toledo *via* Lima to Louisville; third, from Cleveland and Sandusky to Indianapolis; fourth, from Toledo to Indianapolis. It will also be the favorite route from Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton to the islands of Lake Erie, the great watering places, etc. The effort for all that populous and wealthy country between Sandusky and Lima to Cincinnati. The work of completing the road has been put in charge of an executive committee, consisting of the President, Hon. Charles Foster, Gen. R. P. Buckland, and Calvin S. Brice, of this city. They have commenced operations and aid to prepare the road for iron, and will push the road through this year.

Mr. Irvin, of this place, returned this week from points in Indiana, where he held meetings in the interest of the Lima, Lafayette and Mississippi Railroad. He reports enthusiastic meetings, larger than those in that State. The road is already constructed from Rockville, Parks county, to Frankfort, Clinton county, Indiana. Local aid has been subscribed in Howard and Grant counties sufficient to insure the construction of the road through those counties. Meetings are now held preparatory to the meeting of the board of directors at Jonesboro, Indiana, for the final location of the road. There seems to be no doubt but this road will be pushed to an early completion.

Col. Thomas A. Scott's Election.

MEMPHIS, February 14.—The reported election of Col. Thomas A. Scott as President of the Southern Pacific Railroad causes general satisfaction here.

An Important Railway Contract Executed.

The Philadelphia *Telegraph*, of Saturday, says: "In this city yesterday, contracts, for some time under discussion, were executed by the New York Central, Lake Shore and Dunkirk and Warren Railroad on the one part, and the Allegheny Railroad on the other part, for freight and passenger traffic between New York and Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh road is now reduced in influence and in wealth by the events of the war, and of the poor while who has found himself, as he supposes, degraded by the elevation of the negro to political equality with him, his vote before having been the chief badge of his superiority, not only voting but ruling the State, in office with or over his former master, or struggling with the evils of poverty in beginning life for himself after the best years of his life have been spent in the service of others. All these elements beget feelings, and result in disorders to which Northern communities are entirely strangers. A strong feeling which led to the rebellion and sustained brave men, however mistaken, in resisting the government which demanded their submission to its authority, fills a majority of whose belief was attested by their enormous sacrifice of life and treasure, this feeling cannot be expected to subside at once nor in years required full forty years to effect disaffection into sedition, and sedition into treason. Should we not be patient if in less than ten we have a prospect of seeing so many of them were armed enemies becoming obedient citizens? Should we not give all encouragement to those who manifest a disposition now to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1872.

THE report that Colonel FORNEY is to be Postmaster General lacks probability, in the light of his letter resigning the office of collector less than twenty days ago. Should such a thing happen it would be pretty evident that the command "halt" had been given to him and he had obeyed it. Col. FORNEY, no doubt, possesses the qualifications for the position,—but can he afford to take it?

THE Venango *Citizen* proposes Senator JOHN SCOTT for Vice President, as the most acceptable candidate to Pennsylvania that can be named. "A scholar and statesman," says the *Citizen*, "of broad and liberal views, an undoubted Republican, and known for his honesty of purpose and integrity of character, nothing it seems to us could be done which would add more strength to the Republican party than for the National Convention to place his name on the ticket for the Vice Presidency."

THE report that Col. FORNEY is to succeed Mr. CRESWELL as Postmaster General is repeated; indeed the change is said to have been agreed upon. Political reasons are said to have influenced the President to make the offer and Col. FORNEY to accept it. All such reports, however, like similar ones concerning Mr. FISH and other cabinet officers, are entitled to but little credit. There is no doubt that Col. FORNEY is zealous in his efforts to produce harmony among the Republicans with the view of strengthening General GRANT in this and other States, to successfully prosecute which labors he wished to get out of office, and therefore resigned the post of Collector.

THE *World* is now satisfied that "there is no reason for doubting that General GRANT will be renominated by the Philadelphia Convention," and it pretends that it is equally well convinced that "he will be a weak candidate." This latter point, however, is qualified with the remark: "if the Democratic party shall have the discretion and good sense to nominate a candidate for whom the dissatisfied Republicans can vote." The ground of confidence is exceedingly weak and narrow. It is admitted that the Democratic party alone is not strong enough to beat GRANT; it must have the assistance of "dissatisfied Republicans." Whether or not *that is* obtained, depends entirely on the "discretion and good sense" if the party. Did anything ever dwindle so rapidly to nothing!

IT is reported that the platform of the Connecticut Democracy was prepared by the former Secretary of the Navy, GIDEON WELLES. The old gentleman is considerably of a slow internal evidences to strengthen the statement in question. It is certain that the new vessel in which the Connecticut Democracy have started on their voyage, would seem to be built of sounder timber and to be constructed on a better model than was in either case to have been looked for from the contractors and shipwrights of that party. It is possible, of course, that the may turn out to be a Confederate cruiser in disguise, but at least so much may be said in favor of the craft which she flies from the peak is not the emblem of the Lost Cause. It "the old man of the sea" really did construct her he is a defter workman than we had thought; but whether he did or not, the character of her build is perhaps the handsomest compliment that has yet been paid to the architects and officers of the Republican ship of state.

UNDER the operation of the law of self-interest, the people of Canada are opening their eyes wider and wider to their economic and industrial situation. Where, within the last decade, pretty nearly everybody was for free trade, the present thought and sentiment is almost wholly for protection. We have before referred to this radical change of front. It is growing more and more decisive every day. A late number of the Montreal *News*, discussing the causes which, in its own language, "force our youth to migrate to the United States," says that "half the acrimony and bitterness of our electoral conflicts arise from the despair felt at the stagnation and torpor of industrial life. It is felt that we cannot cope with the evil unless we be invested with the attributes claimed by Australia, 'Freedom of commercial legislation and the right to impose differential duties.'" From other Dominion journals we find that similar ideas are rapidly spreading throughout the entire colonies, and assuming such a national character as cannot fail materially to affect the ensuing elections.

THE political campaign in New Hampshire is under full headway, and as election day—which occurs on the 12th of next month—approaches, both parties are redoubling their efforts for success. The Republicans have been reinforced by Senator WILSON, and the Democrats appear to have secured the services of Judge CARPENTER, of South Carolina, late Democratic Union Reform candidate for Governor of that State. The present is said to be the most exciting political campaign ever known in the State. The Manchester *Mirror*, (Republican,) after a careful survey of the whole field, feels confident of the election of the Republican candidate for Governor, of seven out of the twelve Senators, and of a majority of eighteen or twenty in the House. Our friends must not count too confidently on their unhatched chickens, however. There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, and although it seems probable at present that victory will reward their efforts, they must remember that each individual member of the Democracy is struggling for the mastery as if on himself alone this hung the issue. The Republicans of New Hampshire may not be able to command success, but they can at least deserve it; and this desert can only be shown by putting themselves into their work, with personal sacrifice, individual effort and persistent watchfulness, until the hour strikes.

IN speculating on the possible outcome of the present misunderstanding between the United States and Great Britain, we sometime since expressed the opinion that the condition of home affairs in that country would hardly permit her to go to the length of declaring war. The Government's extremity would be the malcontent's opportunity, and it is not at all improbable that Great Britain would, in such an event, provoke a "fire in the rear," quite as dangerous as the fire in front. That we are not alone in this view is shown by the following extract from that temperate and judicious English journal, the *Spectator*, which, speaking of the internal affairs of that country, says in a recent number—

"Rowdyism 'increases in every direction, till the right of public meeting, once supposed to be a bulwark of freedom, is not only threatened, but is gone. Monarchy is defended against Republicanism by cayenne pepper, Republicanism against respectability by chair-legs, the right to strike against the right to abstain by bags of flour. We confess, Radicals though we are, we watch the gradual pulverization of all the restraining influences except force, legal and illegal, with an increasing dismay."

Every man in either country who knows anything of the incalculable horrors and miseries of war, will of course be anxious that the difficulty may be honorably settled in a pacific manner; but even if England should so far persist in her wrongheadedness as to repudiate the treaty, she will hardly care to invite attack from without, with such dangerous elements of disintegration at work from within.

A FEW days ago we made brief reference to the charge, which first appeared in a New York journal of great respectability and influence, that Baron GEROLT had been recalled from or rather invited by his own Government to resign, his post in Washington, in accordance with the desire of the American Government. The Illinois *Staatszeitung* does not think it likely that the statement is well founded, and gives some reasons for refusing to accept such a charge against the Administration. Ever since the victory of Germany and the proclamation of the German empire, the *Zeitung* thinks that the United States Government has, by its friendliness of bearing, constantly endeavored to banish the evil impression produced in Germany by its traffic in arms. With this policy of the Administration its alleged request for GEROLT's recall on account of his excessive zeal in the German cause is not consistent. Moreover BISMARCK is not the ninny on so incompetent a statesman to sacrifice a faithful old servant of Prussia and Germany like GEROLT, especially as he well knew how much GEROLT is beloved among the great majority of the American people. The *Zeitung* thinks it much more likely that Baron GEROLT retired from his post on his own impulse, in the mere desire to spend the evening of his life on his beautiful estate on the Rhine. This impression is, it seems, quite in harmony with the gentle, easy going, genial character of the old gentleman.

We sincerely trust that the view of the subject taken by the *Staatszeitung* may prove to be correct. Certainly the original charge seemed in itself so improbable as to meet with acceptance only in connection with, or in view of those eccentricities which rightly or wrongly are associated in some minds with the State Department under its present management. The charge was heard of with indignant disgust by all who know either directly or by repute the noble and generous character of Baron GEROLT, and the dignified and blameless manner in which for so many years he fulfilled the duties of his office in Washington.

THE ALLEGED SALE OF ARMS TO FRANCE.

Whatever may have been the motives of the Senator who, a few days ago, moved the resolution of inquiry concerning the alleged Government traffic in arms with the French, the subject is now fairly before the people and excites an intense and widely extended interest. The interest awakened by the discussion in the Senate is heightened by the fact that the question is not a novel one. Many months ago, while the French-German war was still in progress, the allegation that the American government had taken advantage of the demand for arms in France to get rid of its worn out or superseded weapons, created, as our readers doubtless recollect, very lively concern among the German population of the country, who in their newspaper organs and in mass meetings, made vehement protest against the reported traffic as a gross violation of our neutral obligations. Though by no means indifferent to an offense of the kind proven or believed to have been committed, other elements of the American population were much less affected by the charge. Leaving sympathy with either belligerent out of view, people were unwilling to believe that the authorities at Washington had erred or would err in the way alleged. In lively recollection of the pain and resentment with which in their own recent struggle for the Union they had regarded such acts on the part of other nations claiming to be friendly, the charge seemed incredible. Then, even to those whose sympathies were entirely with Germany in the great conflict of the time, it was evident that the American Germans in their denunciation of the Government, frequently at least, founded their arraignment of it upon grounds which did not bear examination. They too often argued the case without any reference to or apparent knowledge of the long contest for neutral rights, by which the United States Government formerly acquired so much merit and applause. Too often the Americano-German notions of neutrality were manifestly derived from sentiment rather than from reason, while their entire presentation of the case was ethical rather than legal, and implied a complete misconception of the nature and present status of what is called international law. They seemed to fancy that it consisted of a well digested and generally recognized code, issuing from a known lawgiver, with proper penalties annexed to specific acts of violation, and provided with well understood rules of interpretation. Thus, only a few days ago, the editor-editor of *Gottlieb's Freund*, discussing the old topic, cited as apposite to the case an admirable saying of the Roman jurist, GAIUS, which inculcates the observance of a law in spirit as well as in letter, and he also referred to the purpose or intention of the lawgiver as determining the meaning of the law. But for the moment our respected contemporary forgot or overlooked the difference between ordinary law and international law. In the former, under the protection and force of a competent power." In the latter, in international laws, "right is free, that is, the individual power or person concerned must protect and preserve it for themselves. It arises or is developed gradually or progressively, and the laws or rules in which it is embodied must, or at any rate, may remain more or less uncertain so long as there is any difference of opinion among the nations whose intercourse is more or less in regulating their intercourse with one another.

Returning to the original German complaints of breach of neutrality on the part of the American Government, we may truly say that at the time they were first made no facts became generally known to the people which seemed to warrant the accusation of a plain disregard of neutral obligations. Americans, jealous of the rights of neutrals, were, of course, not prepared to admit that, in consequence of the outbreak of war in Europe, their Government was bound to suspend a process which notoriously had been going on for a considerable time before, namely, the sale of old and discarded weapons to private parties who chose to buy them. Still the universal feeling was against conceding that American dealers in arms were to be left to abandon the traffic lest one or other of the European belligerents might thus be enabled to prolong the war. And neither of these steps was required by the principles of international law, as they are at present accepted by the nations of Christendom. As the case now stands, the Washington Government was not even bound to take extraordinary precautions to prevent American citizens from selling arms to either of the belligerents.

"It is difficult," says a late and authoritative Treatise on International Law, "for a government to watch narrowly the operations of trade, and it is annoying for the innocent trader. Moreover, *the central aught not to be subjected by the conduct of others to additional care and expense.* Hence by the practice of nations *he is passive* in regard to violations of the rules concerning contraband, blockade and the like, and leaves the punishment and the punishing or reprisal power in the hands of those who are most interested, the limits being fixed for the punishment by common usage or law."

In another place the same writer says:

"The question may still be asked whether the government of a neutral is not bound to interpose when it has evidence that its subjects are thus aiding a belligerent against a friend, and is not bound also to acquaint itself with such evil intentions? In the present state of the law of nations this is not felt to be obligatory, although such rule is desirable, and tends to produce lasting national animosities."

These passages, from President WOOLSEY's well known work, show what the law is, not what it ought to be in reference to the subject which has been suddenly invested with so much practical interest. In the same book we read that for international law does not, in spite of the neutral sovereign that he should keep the citizen or subject within the same strict lines of neutrality, which he is bound to draw for himself." For the Government itself directly or indirectly to engage in the traffic thus permitted to private citizens is so manifestly a violation of neutral obligations that there can be no controversy on this subject. This is the accusation lately brought against the Washington Government with a clearness and precision which leave those interested in its honor no alternative but to insist upon an investigation of the charge. The charge was or would have been published to Europe and the world, under any circumstances, and therefore, childishness difficult to comprehend in grown men, is displayed by those Senators who deprecate inquiry, or revile the movers of the resolution which calls for it. Nobody believes that the President has been to blame in the charge is true, have been committed by some person. Let the culprit be discovered if possible, and let him pay the penalty of his misdeeds. It is of incomparably more importance to this great nation that its good name shall be cleared from the disgrace brought upon it than that the interests of any party shall not suffer. In fact those who mention the German vote in connection with the subject, prove their utter ignorance of the nationality referred to, as well as their failure to appreciate the real import and effect of the accusation. Germans have no exclusive sympathy for infamation on account of the offense, if any such offense was committed, and no portion of the people can afford to let it go unpunished, whoever may have been the offender.

ASSASSINATION IN INDIA.

Late reports mention intense excitement as prevailing in India in consequence of the assassination of the Governor General. In view of the political and social importance of the murdered man, such a statement may seem to some almost meaningless unless the word excitement be understood in the sense of alarm. And doubtless many both in India and elsewhere do interpret the incident as a sign of peril to the British Indian empire, or as a forerunner of a renewal of the struggle for its possession. Forgetful of events here tended to increase the significance of the occurrence, especially in the minds of those who have no very distinct notions of Indian geography, or of the constituent elements of the population of the country, of their relations to one another, and of the agencies by which the English maintain their power. People hastily call to mind the late mutiny of the Goorkha regiments in the Indian army, and the hardly suppressed revolt of the Looshai tribes, and readily connect the recent crime of a Mussulman fanatic with the same spirit of disaffection. A famous Anglo-Indian official, once asked by a native prince which of all Indian fruits was most agreeable to his palate, repeated a word which denoted a rather mean sort of plum, but also meant internal discord. The Rajah, though shocked at the Englishman's taste, greatly admired his wisdom. It is morally impossible for the Hindoos ever to combine for a common object, and it is only from the Mohammedans that the English have anything to fear. But of a population of one hundred and eighty millions, only about thirty millions are followers of the Prophet. There can be no doubt that they have always regarded Christian rule with dislike. In the Koran, and in all traditional ordinances for the regulation of life and practice it is assumed that Mussulmans live under a Mussulman government. It is therefore easy to find religious arguments in favor of rebellion against a Christian government, and for more than fifty years Mohammedans of the Wahabee sect have been preaching and intriguing to arouse the faithful in India to throw off the English yoke. However, the mass of Mussulmans, like the mass of Christians, are quite contented to live below the spiritual privileges promised and the sanctity enjoined by their religion, and desire nothing more than to possess the good things of this life, with such measure of activity in the concerns of the life to come as may enable them to die in reasonable peace. Hence for the most part the Wahabee agitators have seemed to labor almost in vain, the difficulty of their mission being much increased by the manifest indifference with which the English in India looked upon all religions, and by the liberality with which they tolerated Mohammedan usages. In the Punjab, fiercely persecuted by the Sikhs from the beginning of the Sikh ascendancy, the Mohammedans found themselves suddenly placed on an equality with their persecutors as soon as the English annexed the country. This liberality, however, never disarmed or cooled the Wahabee fanatics, who have never ceased to toil assiduously in the cause of a *jehad*, or holy war against the British, and from their headquarters at Sitana, near the upper Indus, they have kept the Hill Tribes in a state of chronic hostility to English rule. In the great mutiny of 1857 they were also busy, but how much they had to do in causing it has never been told, or ascertained. Since the suppression of the great mutiny they are known to be more active than ever before, while certain changes in British policy suggested by that event are said to have rendered common Mussulmans more accessible to their appeals. Just as before the rebellion, English officials used to act as trustees of the funds provided for the maintenance of idolatrous worship in the Hindoo temples, the English Government also appointed *cazees* for the interpretation and administration of certain Mohammedan laws for the professors of that faith. By the abolition of these conflicts both Hindoos and Mussulmans were displeased, but while the former have found ample compensation in their enlarged participations in the government of the country, the latter are offended both by the refusal to appoint *cazees*, and by the fact that they, true believers, worshippers of one God, are governed not only by Christian infidels, but by Hindoo idolators. Not that Mohammedans are excluded from a share in the Government, but the Hindoos are so much more numerous and so much more disposed to qualify themselves for the English service that the admission of natives to a share in the administration of the country has quite thrown the people of the prophet into the back ground. But the change which has alienated them, has conciliated the Hindoos, and in spite of many grounds of disaffection the English are probably more firmly established in India than ever before. While the Sikhs of the Punjab remain contented and loyal, British rule in India is in no serious peril from Mohammedan intrigues or attempts. The policy of assassinations, however, become a fashion or a habit, and directed against people situated as the English are in India, may well be regarded with serious anxiety. Living as foreigners live there, it would seem in the power of a few hundred, or even a few dozen fanatics, such as are found there by thousands, either to make life a burden to the English residents or to change their whole style of living.

NOT only all who wish well to France, but all who are capable of sympathizing with patriotic enthusiasm, must feel some interest in the French popular movement now in progress in favor of the German debt and for the delivery of the country from German occupation. During the last two years legitimate hopes founded on French character and performance have so often been grievously disappointed that among Americans the movement referred to has hitherto attracted less attention than might have been expected; in fact, it was at first watched with a degree of skepticism equally fatal to sympathy and admiration. At length it may be considered as fairly inaugurated and as giving assurance of success. The scheme was first suggested and, indeed, initated by certain women in Alsace, who formed a Commitee to receive contributions and subscriptions however small for transmission to the Government. The women of Paris at once took up the idea, and began to collect signatures. Their example was speedily followed not only throughout France, but among French people in the colonies and in foreign countries Twenty-one journals of Paris without delay gave their influence to the support of the scheme, and at last accounts ninety-six provincial journals had taken up the cause with like fervor. More eloquent or touching appeals on behalf of any object could scarcely be conceived than some of those issued by prominent writers in aid of the subscription, and the enthusiasm of patriotism and liberality seems to be steadily growing. Ladies give freely from the abundance of their pin money; mothers of families give up luxuries and superfluities to save for the fund; workmen in the factories and porters in the warehouses set aside a portion of their wages or daily wages, and little boys and girls appropriate their pocket money for the redemption of their country. Within a few days after the plan was laid before the French in New York, the contributions amounted to more than five thousand dollars, and arrangements are made for a weekly contribution to increase the sum. In France the amounts given in some of the cities by women and children and by people in humble circumstances are astonishing. Indeed the whole movement is marked by a fine enthusiasm which by itself proves how mistaken those are who consider the French people hopelessly deteriorated and effete. It is a great sum to be raised, but the Scotch saying, "many mickles make a muckle," is probably destined to be illustrated in a very striking way by the results of this patriotic movement.

MANY readers, no doubt, remember when they felt a lively interest in the doings of ABD-EL-KADER. They recall his long and sometimes brilliant campaigns against the French in Africa, and his last defeat and surrender. Few foreign visitors to the great Industrial Exposition of 1855 created a greater sensation than the old Emir, whose residence in retirement at Brussa, in Syria-now had just been destroyed by the earthquake which buried the city. Then in the summer of 1860, when so many Christians in Syria were massacred by Druses and Turks, ABD-EL-KADER proved by his acts that even a Mussulman, who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca and wears the title of Hadji, can rise above his faith and rescue Christians from their Mohammedan persecutors. For his conduct at that time he was presented by the French Emperor the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor. Ever since LOUIS NAPOLEON [illegible] French Government, and he appears [illegible] and consideration [illegible] 100,000 francs from the French Government it is not easy to tell whether his continued loyalty is due to favors received or to the hope of favors to come. In the late revolt in Algiers one of his sons, MOHI-ED-DINEN, was very prominent. When he was arrested the French Government wrote to ABD-EL-KADER that they would pardon the son, if his father would stand security for his future good behavior. In his reply the Emir hopes that the deplorable condition into which his son has brought himself by his rebellion will be a sufficient guaranty for the future. In conclusion he says, "I have not courage to dwell at greater length on the subject, for I am very much ashamed of the conduct of MOHI-ED-DINE, who has confirmed the saying of the sage, 'the ignorant man does against himself that which the intelligent man would not do against his enemy.'"

It is an interesting illustration of the elasticity of the Mussalman creed that ABD-EL-KADER, in spite of his long residence in France, of his familiarity with Christian ideas, and of his power to sympathize with Christian acts, is still a staunch believer in the Koran. So recently as 1863 he made a second pilgrimage to Mecca.

"ON Friday the *Freiheit's Freund* said that the COMMERCIAL was the only paper in Pittsburgh which had not ridiculed the Germans, and that *it* had adopted the schoolmaster style and failed to understand the importance of the subject." In the foregoing sentence, from the Pittsburgh *Gazette* of yesterday, our venerable contemporary is about equally unjust to the paper criticizing and to the paper criticized. Referring solely to the manner in which German complaints touching the alleged Government traffic in arms with the French had been treated by the English press, the *Freiheit's Freund* incidentally remarked that the COMMERCIAL was the only English paper in this city which did not dismiss the German view of the question with derisive contempt, but at least deemed the subject worthy of discussion, though it was not convinced that the United States had offended against the spirit of international law. There was not a word in the *Freund's* reference to the COMMERCIAL about the schoolmaster style, non-comprehension of the subject, or anything of the sort. Indeed, the subject has seemed to us worthy of this brief mention, because we believe that whatever may be the faults of the COMMERCIAL, one of them is not a tendency to assert any measure of pedagogical or magisterial authority over either Germans or any other class of citizens.

A "PATENT rail splitter" has recently been invented, by which logs of whatever character or density of fibre can be riven asunder almost instantly. A small iron cylinder, or tube, about a half inch in diameter and six inches long, in two equal segments fitting closely together, is inserted into an orifice made with a common auger in the center of the fallen log. This is filled with powder by means of a slender tube surmounted with a funnel, the charge amounting to an ordinary musket load. A fuse is then attached and fired, and the toughest log is split like an acorn.

NATIONAL POLITICS.

The President's Opportunity.

[From the Boston Advertiser.]

The opponents of the administration have determined to test to the utmost the stuff of which it is made. Up to this time Republican opponents have taken the lead in exposing its weak places, and in provoking suspicions where no just causes for suspicion exist. Those who believe in its integrity, and have confidence in the devotion of its members to the highest welfare of the country, have no reason to complain of this. They have, on the contrary, every reason to be proud that in all cases where charges have been preferred or investigations have been sought, the Executive Department of the Administration has either anticipated them or has co-operated with committees of Congress to make such investigations prompt, impartial and complete. Though most unjustly attacked by their enemies and sadly embarrassed by their friends, the President and the members of his Cabinet, while making no display of their methods of administering their varied and great trusts, and never criminating themselves before the public, except as they are vindicated by their character and lives, have welcomed and aided, and they have not anticipated, every practicable effort to unmask dishonesty and drive it from the public service. And we do no more than justice to the motives, while we do not agree with the policy, of those members of Congress who have deprecated indiscriminate and sweeping investigations upon vague charges in saying that they have done so in order to stop the spread of false notions of public corruption, and not from any purpose of shelter on their part from exposure.

And there is no more striking evidence of the strength of the public confidence in the administration than the fact that the powerful opposition it has encountered until now encounters, at Washington and in some of the leading cities, has done so little in the country at large toward undermining it. We make no account of the opposition which has sought to accept the Senate bill, and moved that the Senate Committee insist upon its bill. Agreed to.

Subsequently Mr. Buckalew reported from the same committee the bill offered by himself on Friday last as agreed to by the committee. The report was adopted. This bill, as now agreed upon by both houses, amends the act of 1839 by construing that the petition must be presented within ten days after the returns of a contested election, and effectually gives Gray three Republicans and McClure three Democrats, leaving the seventh member of the committee to be selected by lottery. The committee will be drawn to-morrow.

Bills Passed.

The following Senate bills were passed: Incorporating the Allegheny Salt Company; changing the lines and location of Water street, Birmingham; supplement to the act relative to the opening and grading of Wylie avenue from Kirkpatrick street to Herron avenue, Pittsburgh; supplement for the People's Insurance Company: incorporating the Pittsburgh Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals; supplement relative to building wardens in Birmingham borough; incorporating the Mutual Life Insurance Company of Pittsburgh; supplement for the Orphans' Asylum of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, changing the name of said corporation, limiting its annual income, and authorizing the Board of Managers to fill vacancies; authorizing Allegheny city to issue additional water bonds; supplement to the act authorizing power for the conversion of the common grounds of Allegheny city into public parks, providing for the appointment of a board of new movements and agitators for [illegible] the Directors of the Poor of Allegheny city.

The following House bills were passed: Protecting fish in Chartiers Creek, Allegheny and Washington counties; and Conneguenessing Creek, Butler county; amending the fee bill of Allegheny county, by putting the Prothonotary on the same footing as the fee bill of 1868, and the act of 1810 taxing officers so far as their salaries and percentages are concerned; authorizing Mount Washington School Board, Allegheny county, to erect a house and borrow money; enabling Mount Albion sub-School District to borrow money; incorporating the Old Fellows' Savings Bank, Pittsburgh; incorporating the Arsenal Bank, Pittsburgh.

The joint resolution from the House to adjourn the Legislature on Wednesday will Washington's birthday, 28th inst., was postponed till to-morrow.

The bill granting a site in the public grounds for a monument to the founders of the common school system was passed.

Mr. Graham introduced a bill incorporating the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Allegheny county.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Bills Passed.

Bills authorizing the surrender of the Lawrenceville and Sharpsburg plank road to Pittsburgh passed; authorizing Oil City to provide water works and gas works, and borrow money, passed.

The following House bills passed first reading: Prohibiting the sale of liquors in Monongahela City and Carroll township, Washington county; prohibiting the sale of liquor in North Versailles township, Allegheny county; establishing a ferry over the Ohio at Shousetown; incorporating the Union Passenger Railway Company of Allegheny county; incorporating the Hollidaysburg and Bedford Narrow Gauge Railway Company; incorporating the Citizens' Passenger Railway Company of Pittsburgh.

The bill repealing the fourth section of the Milford and Matamoras Railroad act of 1870, which exempts the road from all taxes annually out of the treasury, was laid over by a vote of 47 to 38.

The following Senate bills passed final reading: Conferring additional powers on the Pittsburgh and Castle Shannon Railroad Company; incorporating the Pittsburgh and Norwood Railroad Company with power *inter alia* to hold, sell and improve real estate and river minerals; amending the charter of the Westmoreland Coal Company, authorizing an increase of the capital stock and purchase of real estate by the same.

The Allegheny delegation held a meeting this afternoon and modified the fee bill in the following principal particulars: Sheriffs' salaries was increased $1,000 instead of $2,000 to be paid by the county; salary of County Commissioner $2,000; Sheriff, $6,000; Prothonotary, $6,000; Recorder, $4,000; Treasurer, one half of the forfeited recognizances; Clerk of Orphans' Court, $2,000. The bill will pass the House with these amendments.

Adjournment for a Week.

The concurrent resolution adjourning the Legislature from to-morrow till Wednesday of next week was passed, which will probably pass the Senate to-morrow.

Report of the Conference Committee Agreed to.

The House agreed to the report of the McClure-Gray Conference Committee. It is quite certain the committee in this case will be drawn to-morrow. It is believed that the Republicans will select Messrs. White, Mumma and Fitch, and the Democrats Buckalew, Davis, of Berks, and Dill, as six members of this committee. The seventh member is to be chosen by lottery.

Cause of the Prevailing Disease.

A report will be presented to the Legislature indicating the cause of the prevailing complaints in Harrisburg. The drinking water from the Susquehanna river, instead of being drawn from the pipe extending several hundred feet into the river, has for some time past been taken by the water works from the edge of the stream, just below the mouths of three filthy sewers. About seventy per cent. of the members of the Legislature and nearly every other inhabitant of the city have been suffering from this criminal negligence by those in charge of the water supply.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 21, 1872.

SENATE.

The Impure Water.

Mr. Billingfelt submitted the report of Mr. Birkinbine, appointed to examine the Harrisburg Water Works, which confirms the dispatch to the Pittsburgh papers last night.

The McClure-Gray Committee Chosen.

A message from the Governor was received, approving the McClure-Gray bill passed by both Houses yesterday, and on motion of Mr. Buckalew, half-past eleven was the hour fixed for drawing the committee.

At that hour the roll was called, and the absentees, Messrs. Findlay and Knight, Democrats, noted. The Senate then proceeded to elect six members of the committee, the seventh member, Gray, the sitting member, not voting, the six highest to be declared members of the committee. All the Republicans voted for Messrs. White, Mumma and Fitch, and all the Democrats for Dill, Buckalew and Davis, of Berks, except the candidates, who exchanged votes for the opposite side. White, Mumma and Fitch, Republicans, had fifteen votes; Buckalew, Dill and Davis, fourteen, and these six were declared elected.

The Speaker then appointed Messrs. Billingfelt and Wallace tellers of ballots, and ordered the names of all Senators except the members elected, sitting members and the Speaker to be placed in the box. Louis W. Hall, counsel for McClure, objected to Mr. Delamater's name being placed in the box, because he was paired with Knight, Democrat, absent. Mr. Delamater disclaimed that he was now paired, having terminated the pair at 10 o'clock, this morning at his own request. The Speaker ordered Delamater's name to be put in. Thirteen names were drawn as follows: Dechert, Democrat; Wallace, Democrat; Broadhead, Democrat; M. G. Sherry, Democrat; Weakley, Republican; Crawford, Democrat; Anderson, Republican; Billingfelt, Republican; Humphreys, Republican; Strang, Republican; Allen, Republican; Nagle, Democrat; Randall, Democrat.

The parties in the case then retired to the ante-room, striking off alternately until only the name of Broadhead, Democrat, remained, and he was declared the seventh member of the committee, which consists of three Republicans to four Democrats.

Bills Introduced.

By Mr. Randall, joint resolution of inquiry into the quantity of land held by the Honeybrook Coal Company.

By Mr. Anderson, incorporating the Monongahela Coal Company of Pittsburgh; also, incorporating Western Railroad and Mining Company; also supplement authorizing the Central School Board of Pittsburgh to borrow fifty thousand dollars.

Bills Passed.

The bill authorizing married women to purchase sewing-machines was passed.

The joint resolution from the House adjourning the Legislature over from to-day till next Wednesday morning was concurred in, and they adjourned till Wednesday morning.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Bills Passed.

All the Western bills postponed yesterday as passed first reading passed finally to-day.

The bill making an appropriation for the completion of the Washington Monument was reported negatively.

The bill incorporating Wilkinsville and contiguous boroughs was reported negatively.

HARRISBURG.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

McClure-Gray Committee Drawn.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 20, 1872.

The Allegheny County Fee Bill.

The Allegheny members of the House held a caucus this afternoon on the amended fee bill, and agreed to report the following amendments: Increasing Judges' salaries $1,000 instead of $2,000; making Commissioners' salaries $1,500 instead of $2,000; keeping the District Attorney at the present salary, but allowing him fifty per cent. of fees on forfeited recognizances. In other respects the bill remains as published. Thus amended it passed the House to second reading this evening. The Senators were not present at the caucus, but friends of the bill report them favorable.

Lecture by Miss Hindman.

Matilda Hindman lectured to a large audience in the hall of the House to-night.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 20, 1872.

SENATE.

Mr. Rutan presented a petition from Beaver county for a prohibitory liquor law.

On motion of Mr. Broadhead, the bill repealing the obnoxious clause of the Milford and Matamoras Railroad act, which was reported affirmatively, was recommitted.

Agreement on the McClure-Gray Case.

Mr. Buckalew, from the Conference Committee on the McClure-Gray bill, reported the refusal of the House Committee to accept the Senate bill, and moved that the Senate Committee insist upon its bill. Agreed to.

Subsequently Mr. Buckalew reported from the same committee the bill offered by himself on Friday last as agreed to by the committee. The report was adopted. This bill, as now agreed upon by both houses, amends the act of 1839 by construing that the petition must be presented within ten days after the returns of a contested election, and effectually gives Gray three Republicans and McClure three Democrats, leaving the seventh member of the committee to be selected by lottery. The committee will be drawn to-morrow.

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FINANCE AND TRADE

EDNESDAY EVENING, February 21, 1872.

e close money market usual at this season of the year has led us to attempt to get e true cause of the condition of the ket. As we have no data given by our s at home, we must take the figures of New York bank statement, on the presion that their condition reflects the ral condition of banks throughout the try.

e give the liabilities and reserve of the bank report and of one year ago:

	Feb. 17, '72.	Feb. 18, '71.
ots	$217,687,300	$216,999,300
lation	28,149,300	31,757,814
	$248,846,400	$248,048,147
	$ 61,461,600	$ 62,012,637
and greenbacks	25,809,700	31,073,977
ncies	$ 3,748,100	$ 19,061,940

is time a year ago the banks held eighty-millions of reserve, or nineteen millions e the amount required by law; now they but sixty-five millions of reserve or 6,000 more than required. The loans h, in February, 1871, were $275,000,000, ow $10,000,000 greater. The aggregate of New York, Philadelphia and Boston nine millions greater than a year ago, their reserve is twenty-five millions

suming the whole banking community in about the same relative condition, find they have drawn on their rces to the full extent of their y, and we can not look for easier market for securities, hs, when the currency now scattering the country returns to the banks. gh the course of the banks gradualy increased from the last of March to when it reached its maximum, and d the market follow the usual course ay expect an easier market to set in the April settlements.

The Pittsburgh and Boston Mining pany, once one of the most flourishing e Lake Superior copper mining comes, which watered its stock and paid in ends to its stock holders over two milollars, is paying its final dividend of share, to wind up the company, the tions of the State Treasurer being re-

request we republish, for the benefit olders of 5-20s, the list of called bonds redeemed next month.

following bonds will be paid on presentation, interest to cease finally March 7th upon Bonds known as second series, Act bruary 25, 1862, dated May 1, 1862, as ws:

50 from No.	1 to No.	5460, both inclusive.
00 "	5461 "	10000 " "
00 "	1 "	1864, " "
00 "	1 "	11120, " "

Registered Bonds of the same Act as follows:

$50 from No.	596 to No.	697, both inclusive.
$100 "	4067 "	5079, " "
500 "	1909 "	2407, " "
1,000 "	8007 "	11008, " "
5,000 "	3056 "	3956, " "
10,000 "	2907 "	3899, " "

following will be paid on March 20, est to cease at that date—coupon bonds m as the Second Series, act of Februa, '62, dated May 1, 1862, as follows:

COUPON—SECOND SERIES.

	No. 4,461 to No. 10,775, both inclusive.	
	No. 14,094 to No. 20,000, both inclusive.	
	No. 1 to No. 16,179, both inclusive.	
	No. 11,191 to No. 27,443, both inclusive.	

REGISTERED.

$50—No. 698 to No. 840, both inclusive.		
$100—No. 5,080 to No. 5,991, both inclusive.		
$500—No. 1,436 to No. 1,794, both inclusive.		
$1,000—No. 11,009 to No. 13,150, both inclusive.		
$5,000—No. 3,103 to No. 4,102, both inclusive.		
$10,000—No. 2,900 to No. 4,174, both inclusive.		

Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the wing quotations of Government s in New York to-day, as furnished by Jay Cooke & Co., their correents:

	Morning.	Noon.	Closing.
Bonds of 1881	115¾	115¾	115¾
Bonds of 1862	110¾	111	111
lation		111	111
Bonds of 1864	111½	111¾	111¾
Bonds of 1865 (new)	110¾	110¾	110¾
Bonds of 1867	111¼	111¾	111¾
Bonds of 1868	112¾	112	112¾
	108¾	108¾	108¾
	110¾	110¾	110¾
	110¾	110¾	110¾

ncy 6s.....

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth e and Wood street, quote United States ities in New York to-day as follows:

1 States 6s of 1881	115¾
1 States 5-20s of 1862	111¾
1 States 5-20s of 1864	111¾
1 States 5-20s of 1865	111¾
1 States 10-40s	108¾
1 States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	110¾
1 States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	112¾
1 States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	112¾
Pacific Railroad 6s	
ific Railroad	114

The following table shows the prices of ay stocks, gold, etc., at the various sesof the New York Stock Exchange ng the day:

	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:00
ebruary 21, 1872.	M.	M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾
	81	81	81	81	81	81
Union Tel.	26	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾
dway	32¾	32¾		32¾		
ific Mail	57¾	57¾	57¾	57¾	57¾	57¾
Express		90¾		90¾		
Fargo Express		68		68		
an Express		68¾		68		
States 6s		93¾		93¾		
ark Central	97¾	97¾	97¾	97¾	97¾	97¾
outral scrip	91¾	92	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
	31¾	31	31¾	31	31	31
ago & Alton	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾
an Central		103¾		103¾		
ago, Rock Island	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾
Central		134¾		134		
& Alton	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾
& North'n	73¾	73	73¾	74	73¾	74¾
referred	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
eland	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾
referred	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾
	27¾	27¾	27¾	27¾	27¾	27¾
referred	77¾	77¾	77¾	77¾	77¾	77¾
	98	98	98	98	98	97¾
referred	98	98	98	98	98	97¾
and Miss'pi	45	44¾	44¾	44¾	44¾	44¾
and Alton		90		90		
referred		125		125		
Wabash & R						
		38		38		
Central		37¾	37¾	37¾	38	38¾
Pacific	38	37¾	37¾	37¾	38	38¾

ese New York Post says: In the stock market interest to-day centres in the Union Pacific the dealings in which have been very large. ost startling rumors are afloat in regard to astion of speculative stock. One of these is effect that the "pool" has under its control hundred thousand shares, more of which le time locked up, and all of which can be on notice. Others would have it that the breaking of stock available for deliveries on contracts, conceding that all these sixty thousshares are on the street. The one the "short" interest is variously estimated up to 150,000 shares. So difficult has it been to the stock for delivery on speculative sales 4% per cent. has been the difference between and "regular" sales, the latter price, of having been for "cash stock." The stock o sold at 1 to 1¼ per cent. more than the as had the privilege of delivering it within 10 ays, and any per cent. paid for the privilegedelivery has extended to 60 days. It is unto say that the interpretation put on the stock significant element in determining the price ent. The partisans of the Vanderbilt party hat the failure of the road to be improved by ubertilt accession to the management, while re others who argue that if Mr. Thos. A. Scott s so lightly of the road as to abandon it without ruggle, it will not be in the powerof even the bilt management to make it a good property for shholders. Unless the speculative situation stock is very much misrepresented, it is very to the great Rock Island "corner" with on that the speculators making the "corner" longer than those who conducted the Rock operation, which ended so disastrously for The price of Union Pacific on "regular" sales ged from 37 to 38¾. The remainder of the has been neglected and the fluctuations un-

essrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, h the following quotations of the prices to-day of the most active

Central	63¾	Lehigh Valley R. R.	62¾
ral Pacific	38¾	North Pennsylvania	17¾
reservation	45¾	Camden and Amboy	126
	47¾	Schuylkill Navigat'n	16
k & Alby'y R.	41¾	Reading	57¾

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

REMARKS—We have nothing new to note for rmation of our readers. The demand was ed and was the principal feature. Buyers ry shy and not disposed to operate just

The decline on Tuesday was recovered y. Below will be found all the information able to obtain.

CRUDE.

quote the asking rates as follows: February 10c; $ 10 " 10c; $ 15 " 10c; B 20 " 10c; O all year 12c. For prices d regions see our dispatches.

REFINED.

market was reported quiet; this, however, is to the general reader. The nominal rates Spot 21¾c; February 21¾c; March 22½c; for oil for eastern delivery.

(By Western Union Telegraph.)

ILLE, February 21.—The *Courier* says: One follows another in immediate succession. sections of soda, grave apprehensions as to the nd as at present, prices suffer but little but in view of prospective complications in ess, the demand is very light and prices

We give the following sales:

upper road, spot..... 3 52½
upper road, spot..... 3 55
upper road, B. O., March..... 3 60
upper road, B. O., 1st 6 months..... 4 22½
lower road, spot..... 3 72½
lower road, S. O., 1st 6 months..... 3 62½
Oil City, 47 gravity..... 4 00

Young, 47 gravity. Closing of 20st. ains nominal at 3½@3¾c; refined quiet; ed at 22c; cases 23½c; Philadelphia deliv- and wanted; sales 300 bbls refined for Feb-1½c.

February 21.—market dull but a little ordinary on lower creek held at $3 62½; y at Oil City held at $3 80.

ERTY, February 21.—Market very 5 00.

ILLE, February 21.—Market dull at $3 85

ILLE, February 21.—$2 60 bbl, $3 65 naked fairness unchanged and nothing doing.

ELPHIA, February 21.—Market very dull; crude 11½c; cases 21½c; March 22¼ print, 23c.

By Pacific and Atlantic Line.)

ELPHIA, February 21.—February 21¼c; 22¾c; April 22¾c; crude 11¾c.

ILLE, February 21.—Market quiet and dull; ket tool.

ISTVILLE, February 21.—Market quiet and 60.

VILLE, February 21.—Market firm and $3 @$3 60, with a decidedly more settled

ORK, February 21.—Refined 22c; crude is a ket at 10¾c; asking 11¾c; little doing.

ADON, February 21.—Market very y, February 21.—Market very dull at $3 50,

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 21, 1872.

REMARKS—We have nothing new to give the reader with regard to the state of the general markets. Prices are uniform and unchanged on all leading articles. As before remarked, dealers are preparing for the spring trade, which is now at hand. Trade is fair for the season, navigation being still obstructed with ice.

Below we give the wholesale rates of the market, unless otherwise noted:

APPLES—Good winter $4 50@5 00 per bbl; fair $4; common $2; fancy $5@5 50. Receipts 49 bbls.

ASHES—Common soda ask 4½c; refined 5c; nitrate soda 5¾c; pots 10c; pearls 11c.

ARTIFICIAL BUTTER—Sales prime at 60c70c per gallon; common to fair 50@55c.

BEANS—Prime Navy @ 25@2 50 ₩ bush. Supply light and market firm.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—We are reported a brisk demand at $6 00@6 50 ₩ barrel for a prime article; $5 75@6 00 ₩ cwt.

BROOM CORN—Demand light with sales at prices within the range of 3@4c ₩ lb.

BROOMS—Market reported quiet at $4 50 for fancy; No. 1, $4 00; No. 2 $3 50; No. 3, @2 75; common, @2 25@2 50 ₩ doz.

BAKING POWDER—Royal ½-lb cans $1 50 per doz; ¼-lb cans $1 00 per doz; 1-lb cans $6 00 per dozen; Banner $1 75, $3 25 and $6 00 per dozen for the different sizes.

BUTTER—Receipts 48 packages. Under a light supply prime roll is held firm at 26@28c per lb, though 24@26c may be considered the bulk of the trade; medium to good 18a21c; common 10a12c.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—In this department of trade we have no changes to note. Receipts 515 pieces green meats. The following is a carefully corrected price list: Sugar cured hams 12¾c; sugar-cured shoulders 8¾c; plain do 7¾c; rib-sides, clear rib do 8¾c; clear 9c; rib b. bacon 11c; clear do 11¾c; dried beef 16¾c; mess pork $14 50; ham sausage 10¾c; lard in barrels 9¾c, steamed 9¾c; kettle 10c; lard in kegs and buckets 10¾c; pigs' feet per keg $3 00.

CHEESE—Sales 100 boxes. We quote New York Goshen at 16c; Ohio 15@17c; Ohio Factory 16@ Dairy 14c.

CANDLES—Mould, 11c; stearine, 14 ounces, 13½c; full weight, 16c; star, 14 ounces, 18c; full weight 19¾c.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Sales at $6 00 for Pennsylvania; other brands $5 00 to $5 50.

CANDIED CITRON—Small brands at 21¾@22c. Demand active.

CRANBERRIES—Sales Sackett's Bell Berries at $17 00@18 00 ₩ bbl; Jersey, cultivated, $12 00a13 00.

CEMENT—Beeson's Phœnix Hydraulic $3 50 @ 3 75; Johnston's @ $2 25; Rosendale @ $4 50; Calcined plaster $4 50; Land plaster, $5 50@5 75 ₩ ton. Demand fair.

FRUITS—DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN—Following are the ruling figures of the market: Dried apples Sa5c; peaches, bright new halves, 9¾a10c; old sales; mixed, 7¾@8c; quarters fancy; currants, new crop, 16a17c for Patras; raisins, per box, new crop, $4 box @ 1 75; Valencia do 13c; prunes 12¾c for new.

EGGS—Prices still continue well up in the figures and we quote strictly fresh at 28@30c ₩ dozen; salted 19a20c.

FLOUR—Receipts 727 bbls. No change in prices Mills—National, white wheat, bbls $8 00; Pan Handle, southern amber, b bl $8; Morning Glory, red winter, bbls $7 80. The usual reduction in sacks—Superfine amber $5 25 @ 5 50; Straight Flake $5 @ 5 25; Lilly $7 50; Crosett's $7 25; Island $7 75. Country brands are held firmly at $6 @6 75.

GROCERIES—We are reported a fair trade at the following quotations:

Coffee—Fancy 26c; prime 25c; good 23¾c; fair 23¼a 24c; Java 28@30c; Laguayra 26a27c; Mocha 45c; roasted coffee, loosed and in one package, 25c ₩ lb.

Sugars—Refined, crushed, granulated and powdered 13¾c, cut loaf 14½c; A do 13¾c; extra C 13¼c; C 12¾c; C 11¾c; C yellow 10¾a11¾c. P R sugars, choice 11¾c; prime 10¾c; good 10a11c; Cuba sugars 10a11c; New Orleans sugars, fair, 10¾c; good 10c; prime 10¾c; choice 11¾c.

Syrups—Havemeyer & Elder 65c; H. & E. Extra 70c; White Honey 60c; Extra Silver 50c; Red Head 48c; Lavender 45c; common 35a40c.

New Orleans Molasses—New crop, prime, 65c; choice 68c.

Rice—Carolina choice 9¾c; Rangoon 8c; Patna 83¼c.

Spices—Pepper grain 22c; pure ground 25c; Cassia bark 50c; cloves 22c; nutmegs $1 25.

Starch—Pearl, 8c; Buffalo, 7¾c; Silver Gloss, 8c; refining at $3 @3 25 ₩ bbl; Millennium ₩ cwt, seconds $1 45 @1 75; Sheets $1; rye shorts $1 50; chopped corn and oats $1 50; chopped rye $1 60; meal $1 90 @2 00 ₩ cwt.

MINCE MEAT—All good brands are held at 12a 13c per lb.

POULTRY—Dressed turkeys 15a16c; ducks 15a16c; geese 10a11c; chickens 14a15c. Few live turkeys in market, and may be quoted at 15a16c.

POTATOES—Prime peachblows sell readily at 75a80c ₩ bush.

RAGS—Sales at 4a4¾c ₩ lb. Demand active.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER—Sales of ¼-lb cans at $1 50; ½-lb $2 75; 1-lb $5 00.

SEEDS—Clover seed $6 50a6 75; timothy seed $3 75 a4 00.

SALT—Car load $1 85; store $2 00.

SUGAR—Sales 400 hhds. Prices unchanged at 45¾c ₩ lb.

TALLOW—There is a fair demand with sales at 8a 8¾c per lb.

WILLOWS—The market is quiet and steady, with sales Kentucky at 10c.

WHISKY—Highwines 95c; common rectified 95ca $1 00; proof rectified $1 05a1 10; rye and corn $1 60a1 65 ₩ gallon; old Monongahela whisky $4 00 a5 00 as to age.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PIG IRON AND BLOOM MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, February 17, 1872.

The transactions in raw irons during the past week have been extremely light. The receipts have been quite liberal, but a large portion of the iron received has been required to fill previous contracts. There has been an active demand for all descriptions of pig iron, but sales have been restrained from want of stock. Producers being still sold ahead, are not disposed to sell in advance of production.

On the 15th inst. the bar iron manufacturers advanced the rates on iron 3-10 per pound.

We are reported the following sales of pig-iron:

Bituminous Coal Smelted from Lake Superior Ores.

200 tons medium gray forge	$41 00—4 m
200 tons medium gray forge	41 00—4 m

Youghiogheny Coke.

36 tons Dunbar No. 1 foundry	$44 00—4 m
30 tons Dunbar No. 2 foundry	42 00—4 m

Eastern Anthracite.

200 tons neutral forge iron	$42 50—4 m
200 tons No 1 extra foundry	45 00—4 m
100 tons No. 1 anthracite	46 00—4 m
100 tons medium gray forge	40 00—4 m
100 tons white and mottled	37 50—4 m
50 tons No. 1 foundry	43 50—4 m
50 tons No. 1 foundry, cash	42 00—cash
50 tons No. 2 foundry	43 00—4 m

IRON MARKETS.

CINCINNATI.

February 20.—Pig iron is very firm, the demand being fair for all descriptions, but prices are without special change. Malleable iron is firmer and a shade higher, the market closing firm at full prices. We quote:

HOT BLAST CHARCOAL.

No. 1 foundry	$45	No. 1 mill	$40@41
No. 2 foundry	40@44		

COLD BLAST CHARCOAL.

Missouri	$50@55	Car-wheel	$55@60

STONE COAL IRON.

No. 1 foundry	$45@44	Forge	$40
No. 2 foundry	40@43		

BLOOMS PER TON.

Charcoal	$90@95

SCRAP IRON.

Cast	$1 20@1 50 Wrought	$1 60@2 00

BAR IRON.

Common ₩ lb	4 3-10	Charcoal	5 c to
		HORSE SHOES.	
Horse shoes	$5 50@5 75	Mule shoes	$6 50@6 75

Nails—The demand was fair, and the supply being only moderate the market ruled firm all week at the following quotations:

10d to 60d	$0 00@4 75	3d	$0 00@6 25
8d to 9d	0 00@5 00	2d	0 00@7 25
6d to 7d	0 00@5 25	1d, f. h.	0 00@8 50
4d to 5d	$0 00@5 50	Spikes, cut	0 00@5 00

ST. LOUIS—RECEIPTS OF IRON.

For the week ending Saturday, February 10, 1872:

	Ore tons.	Pig iron tons.
St. Louis and Iron Mountain	2,400	237
Atlantic and Pacific	30	49
Rockford and Rock Island		30
St. L., Van., T. H. and Ind. R. R.		
Total tons	2,430	317

St. Louis Republican.

NEW YORK.

February 14.—The market for Scotch pig is very quiet but firm, at fully former prices. In American iron we hear of sales of 500 tons Crane at $40, deliverable at Hoboken; 500 tons do deliverable at Pittsburgh on the basis of above price, and 200 tons Forge, deliverable at Hoboken, at $38 25. The market is still very strong, with holders asking $42 for No. 1 foundry $40 for No. 2 extra. Rolled iron is held very firmly at the late advance, with some disposition to advance prices still further.—*Bulletin.*

The market for Scotch pig remains in about the same position as last noted. The demand continues light, but there is no disposition on the part of holders to realize, and prices are steady at the late advance. We notice sales of 200 tons Glengarnock at $39 75@40 00, and 300 tons Eglinton and Langloan on private terms. The market for American is very firm, with a good inquiry and very small offerings: sales have been made of 200 tons No 1 foundry, Hoboken, at $40, and 500 tons gray forge, part $38 25.—*Shipping List.*

PHILADELPHIA.

February 14.—Pig iron continues in demand at the advance. Sales of No 1 foundry at $40; No 2 at $38a 39; gray forge at $36@37 50. Bar iron sells at $85a 87 50. Nails sell at $4 75 per keg.

HORSE SHOES.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

The following are the current cash prices:

Horse shoes, ₩ keg	$4 75
Mule shoes, ₩ keg	5 75
Less than 100 kegs:	
Horse shoes, ₩ keg	5 00
Mule shoes, ₩ keg	6 00

PITTSBURGH MARKET WEEKLY REVIEW.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

REMARKS.—This being the anniversary of the birth day of Washington, little business was transacted, business houses generally closing at noon. The weather this morning is "bitter cold," which will retard the opening of navigation. There have been some important changes in iron, copper, drugs and dry goods, but all other articles remain unchanged in price. Trade cannot be styled active, though it is fair, all things considered, for the season. Dealers, in all branches of trade are fully prepared for the coming spring trade, which, in the "course of events," must ere long come upon them. For reliable houses see the columns of the Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL.

PITTSBURGH DRY GOODS MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

BROWN COTTONS.

Anchor A	13c	Idaho	13 c
Eagle	13c	Duquesne	12 c
Conewago	13 c	Magnolia	11 c

PRINTS.

Merrimacks	11½@ c	Richmond	11½@ c
Spragues	11½@ c	Pacifics	11½@ c
Americans	11½@ c	Mourning	11½@ c
Conestoga	11½@ c	Garner	11 c
Allen Pinks	12 c		

GINGHAMS.

Lancaster	14	Glasgow	13½
Bates			

DELAINES.

Hamilton	20c	Manchester	20c
Pacific	20c		

TICKINGS.

Whitaker	42 c	Conestoga Medal	22c
Portsmouth	33½c	Pennsylvania	18c
Roanoke	28 c		

LUMBER MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

UNPLANED LUMBER.

Clear, ₩ M	$65 00
First common	55 00
Second common	45 00
Third common	29 00
Sheeting	20 00
Hemlock joists and scantling	20 00

PLANED LUMBER.

First common, ₩ M	$60 00
Clear	70 00
Flooring boards	35 00
Partition boards	43 00
Shelving on both sides	37 00
Shelving on one side	33 00
Flow and ship weatherboarding	36 00
Moulded weatherboarding	37 00
Rabbited weatherboarding	37 00
Half-inch patent planed	25 00
Half-inch patent unplaned	20 00
Twelve-inch vertical, with stripes	45 00
Oak and yellow pine flooring boards	45 00

SHINGLES AND LATH.

No. 1, 18-inch, sawed	$ 7 00
No. 2, 18-inch, sawed	5 00
No. 1, 16-inch, sawed	6 00
No. 2, 16-inch, sawed	4 00
Lath	2 50

PITTSBURGH GLASS MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

The following are the current prices of window glass, adopted by the manufacturers of Pittsburgh:

PER BOX OF FIFTY FEET.

SINGLE STRENGTH.		DOUBLE STRENGTH.	
2d Quality.	1st Quality.	Double Strength.	
6 by 8 to 7 by 9	$5 75	8 by 10	$9 00
7 by 10 to 8 by 10	5 50	9 by 10	9 50
8 by 11 to 10 by 13	6 00	10 by 12	10 50
10 by 14 to 10 by 15	6 25	11 by 14	11 00
11 by 14 to 12 by 18	7 50	13 by 15	13 00
14 by 16 to 16 by 20	8 00	15 by 18	15 00
14 by 22 to 16 by 22	8 25	15 by 20	15 50
18 by 22 to 18 by 30	8 75	16 by 22	16 00
20 by 24 to 20 by 30	9 00	18 by 22	17 00
26 by 28 to 24 by 36	9 75	20 by 24	18 00
26 by 30 to 28 by 36	10 50	20 by 30	19 00
28 by 38 to 28 by 44	12 50	21 by 26	20 00
30 by 46 to 30 by 48	14 50	24 by 30	24 00
30 by 50 to 32 by 52		25 by 30	25 00
32 by 54 to 34 by 56		27 by 30	26 00
34 by 58 to 36 by 60		28 by 30	27 00
36 by 60 to 40 by 60		31 by 36	30 00

NO CHANGE IN DISCOUNT.

All orders received after this date, will be charged at these prices. Orders taken by agents are suspect to approval of manufacturers when received.

CORDAGE MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

The following are the card rates:

Manilla rope	21½
Manilla rope, twelve thread	23½
Manilla rope, six and nine thread	23½
Manilla lines, spun yarn, well tarring rope	23
Manilla hawser, tarred	22
Manilla bolt rope, tarred	22
Manilla bolt rope, untarred	23
Sisal rope	20½
Sisal bolt rope, tarred	20
Sisal hay, stave and leather twine	20½
American hacked hemp tarred rope	19
American hacked hemp white rope	20
Russia hemp tarred rope	
Jute rope	13½@15
Cotton rope	60 @65
Rossendale marline and hambroline	23 @25
Spun yarn	18 @22
Hemp lath twine, tarred	16
Hemp lath twine, untarred	17
American hemp packing	14 @20
Russia do do	
Italian do do	
Jute	10 @20
Patent self-lubricating packing	
First quality oakum	11
American Navy oakum	10
do do best	10
Caulking cotton	10 @20

WINES AND LIQUORS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

Following are the ruling rates for wines and liquors in this market:

	Per Cent.	Per gal.
Common rectified Whisky	85	90
Proof do do	90	$1 @1 05
Monongahela Rye, 1 year old	100	1 50
Monongahela Rye, 2 years old	100	2 00
Monongahela Rye, 3 years old	100	2 75
Monongahela Rye, 4 years old	100	3 25
Pure Rye, 1862 & 1865 brands		
5 years old	100	5 00
Pure Rye, "Golden Wedding," 8 years old proof gallon		9 25
Domestic brandy, proof gallon		2 50
Imported brandy	6 00@9 00	
Dolmestic Gin	1 50@1 75	
Holland Gin	2 00@3 00	
B. B. Brandy	1 50@1 75	
Cherry Brandy	1 50@1 75	
Port Wine	1 50@2 00	
Port Wine, "Crown,"	2 00@2 50	
Port Wine, "Sherry Cobbler"	1 75@2 00	
Sherry Wine, "Crown"	2 25@2 75	
Sherry Wine, "Harmony"	1 50@5 00	
Rum, "New England"	1 50@2 00	
Rum, "Jamaica"	5 00@5 50	
	Quarts.	Pints.
Champagne, "Chas. Heidsieck"	$27 00	$29 00
Champagne, "Imperial"	16 00	18 00
Champagne, "Gold Seal"	13 00	20 0

PITTSBURGH HIDE AND LEATHER MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

The following are the prices ruling in this market, reported from actual sales by wholesale dealers:

LEATHER.

Oak sole, light and middle	33@36c	Oak harness, best	39@41c
Oak sole, heavy	39@41c	Oak harness, country	33@37c
Oak sole, Spanish	42@46c	Bridle, fair, ₩ doz	84@96c
Oak, slaughter	39@43c	Band leather, ₩ ft	20@23c
	29@33c	Hand leather, ₩ ft	18@20c
Red sole B A mid	31@33c	Waxed calf	$1 2@1 35
Red sole B A heavy	31@33c	Wax kip	$1 10@1 25
Red sole Orinoco	28@30c	Wax'd upper, ₩ ft	25@30c
Slaughter sole	34@36c	Calf skins, ₩ ft	85@90c
Saddler's skirting	42@44c		
Black bridle, ₩ doz	$80@85	doz	$85@90

HIDES.

Green salted, all weights	11 @11½	Green salt calf	17 @19 c
Green butchers' hides, cow	8 @9 c	Green butch'r's do	14 @16 c
Green salt kip	14 @16 c	Dry flint hides,	20 @22

OIL AND TALLOW.

Pure Labrador		Bank Oil	65c
Straits, ₩ gal		No. 1 Tallow	8@8½c
	90c		

COPPER MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

The following are the current rates in this market:

Braziers' Copper, over 12 ℔ sheets, (or 1 ℔ to square foot)	38c
Braziers' Copper, for 16 oz and over 12 oz	40c
All sheet Copper, 12 oz per square foot, and under	44c
Circles Copper, less than 24 inches diam	41c
Circles Copper, 24 inches diam and over	49c
Planished and Pattern Sheets	50c
Sheathing Copper, (14 by 48 inches) over 12 oz	36c

PLANISHED COPPER.

	Case, and case.	Over.
Sheathing size, 14x48 over 12 oz	42c	41c
Boiler size, as above, over 12 oz	44c	43c
Sheets over 20 inches wide	46c	45c
All sheets lighter than 12 oz, under 20 inch wide	46c	45c
All sheets lighter than 12 oz, over 20 inch wide	48c	46c

CANNED FRUITS, &c.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

Below will be found the wholesale prices for canned fruits, oysters, lobsters, &c.

	₩ doz.		₩ doz.
Peaches, 2 lbs	$ 2 00	Plums, 2 lbs	$ 3 00
Peaches, 3 lbs	3 50@3 75	Lima beans, 2 ℔	3 25
Tomatoes, 2 lbs	1 75@1 85	String beans, 2 ℔	2 50
Tomatoes, 3 lbs	2 25@2 50	Succotash, 2 lbs	2 25
Green corn, 2 ℔	@2 75	Lobsters, 1 lb	2 25
Green peas, 2 ℔	@2 75	Lobsters, 2 lbs	
Strawber's, 2 lb	3 50@4 00	Cove oys's, 1 lb	1 40@1 50
Blackb'r's, 2 lbs	2 50@2 75	Cove oys's, 2 lbs	2 50
Raspb'r's, 2 lbs	2 25@3 50	Spic'd oys, 1 lb	75
Whortleb'r, 2 lbs	2 75	Spic'd oys, 2 lbs	2 50
Pine apples	2 25	Pickled oys, qt	4 25@4 75
Pears, 2 lbs	3 00	Br dy peach, qt	4 50
Cherries, 2 ℔	3 00		

BROOM MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

We quote the manufacturers prices as follows:

Shaker No. 1, ₩ dozen	$ 4 00
Shaker " 2, "	3 50
Hurl " 1, "	3 50
Hurl " 2, "	3 00
Round Hurl	3 00
Plain Hurl	2 50
Western common	2 50
Broom corn, prime ₩ ton	$200@220
Broom corn, common, ₩ ton	130@150
Broom handles, ₩ 1,000	20@30
Swallow brooms, ₩ dozen	5 00

WHITE LEAD, PUTTY, ETC.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

Pure in lots of 2,000 lbs in oil	12½c
Pure in lots of 500 lbs in oil	13 c
Fancy brands from	7 @11 c
White lead dry (strictly pure) in kegs	11½c
Orange mineral	14 @15c
Pure red lead	10½@11 c
Painters' red lead	9¾@10 c
Rulargo	10 @10½c
Selected zinc, ground in oil	11 c
Vielle Montagne Co.'s French zinc	11 c
Blue paint, ground in oil	8 @11 c
Putty	4¾@ 5¾c

TOBACCO MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, February 22, 1872.

We herewith annex the ruling jobbers' prices manufacturers, of course, giving a discount for large lots.

Spun Roll	70@ 75	Diamond Twist	90@1 00
Flounders	60@ 75	Rough & Ready	55@ 58
Tens	65@ 75	Scotch Snuff	70@ 73
Navy	65@ 75	Copenh'n

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1872.

TERMS.

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter up of the club.

Wanted—Copies of the following dates of the WEEKLY COMMERCIAL, to complete our file:
Two copies March 11, 1871.
Two copies April 15, 1871.
Two copies September 30, 1871.
Two copies October 1, 1871.
Two copies November 25, 1871.

IT IS SAID that the Pope is about to issue an encyclical letter on the subject of public education, and its relations to the Church and State. It will be recollected that this question was debated at considerable length in the Œcumenical Council. The matter is one of considerable importance, since an authoritative definition of the position of the Roman Church toward public schools and the systems of education as practiced at the present day, has never yet been given. It is to be hoped it may breathe a more liberal and cosmopolitan spirit than some of his late encyclicals on other topics have done.

PRESIDENT WOOLSEY, of Yale College, an acknowledged authority on international law, says the point at issue in the treaty is simply whether the matters submitted by the two governments to the arbitrators are limited to certain acts of certain vessels which had been allowed to leave British ports, or had escaped from such ports against the laws of nations, as specifically defined in the treaty, or whether they include also the indirect results of such acts. If these indirect results were included in such submission, they must be considered by the tribunal, and Great Britain can neither withdraw from the arbitration after Russia is ready to abide by it, if they were not thus included, then the United States did not, by making no mention of them, abandon them, and may resume them whenever the government sees fit to do so. Unless, however, he says, an end is made to these claims now, the loss of all faith in the principle of international arbitration is inevitable.

SOME time ago we threw out the suggestion that there were considerations of a weighty character in favor of taking the business of constitution making, in which "Pennsylvania is about to engage, out of the whirl and influences of the Presidential campaign. We were as early as any one in the field for constitutional reform, and we have not forgotten of our zeal in the cause; but we entertain serious doubts about attempting to frame a new constitution while the Presidential campaign is going on. There may be those who have that are not actuated by motives disinterested in favoring a postponement,—but we are not disposed to distrust the motives of those who are aiming at what we regard a proper end. We are disposed to approve of the action of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, throwing over the Constitutional Convention one year and outside of the Presidential canvass. We are quite disposed to believe that the cause of reform will be subserved thereby.

MR. CURTIS, the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, assures us that Gen. GRANT will, in this regard, "certainly do what he has announced." With the knowledge which he possesses of his firmness of character and tireless perseverance in the pursuit of duty, the whole country will accept this assurance with peculiar satisfaction. Luckily the success of Civil Service Reform rests not with Congress, but with Gen. GRANT, and to him the friends of Reform will look with confidence. Mr. CURTIS remarks with perfect truth that "nothing would tend more "to secure his re-election than the confidence "of the country that he would push the reform "forward from point to point." The country has seen enough to know that it is not on Mr. SUMNER, nor Gen. SCHURZ, nor Mr. CONKLING, nor Mr. MORTON, that it can depend to consummate this reform, but Gen. GRANT, who has promised it as resolutely as he promised to crush the rebellion when he crossed the Rapidan.

REMARKING on the recent petition to Congress from the merchants and business men of twenty-two States, asking that qualification and efficiency shall be made the basis of the tenure of public office, Mr. GEORGE W. CURTIS, in the current number of *Harper's Weekly*, notices some of the latest objections made to Civil Service Reform by those who appear to think that the ability of a man to serve his country is measured by his skill and unscrupulousness in manipulating caucuses and voters, and says:

"The happy-go-lucky argument that we have always done very well under the system, and that it is agreeable to the genius of our institutions, is merely a declaration that we have not succumbed to it yet, and that the genius of our institutions is idiotic."

To which, referring to the profound conviction of the people that something must be done, and to their desire that the President shall make a beginning and show what his purposes be, adds:

"We are very sure that nothing would tend more to secure his re-election than the confidence of the country that he would push the reform forward from point to point. Of his determination there is no question. He will certainly do what he has announced."

It is probable that in this reference to the President Mr. CURTIS speaks by the card; and, Congress or no Congress, we may therefore hope soon to see the ball set in motion.

IT is said that a considerable change is taking place in the views of Congress with respect to Civil Service reform, and that the reflective sentiment of business men of both houses who revolted from the proposition when the political effects of the plan were first considered, has since led them to indorse the reform; in consequence of which favorable alteration of opinion it is thought to be not improbable that some measure may yet pass. The House Select Committee on the question will be called to report to-day, and may possibly have a bill ready for action. It is not doubtful that many members in both bodies will be certain to fight desperately in behalf of the present system, to which they owe their seats and whatever influence they possess; but neither, we think, is it questionable that the battle has got to go on until Congress takes up the subject and acts upon it in accordance with the wishes of the people. The indications are that the measure is based upon a sound principle, and the agitation will be sure to continue until the opinion of the nation concerning the question is crystalized into law. It is hinted in some quarters that while the President is honestly desirous of putting the new system into practice, he is already exhibiting signs of breaking down under the secret pressure of Congress. This we do not believe. He cares, and he knows that the people care, for the character and activity of the public officers of the country, and we believe he will stand firm to the end, notwithstanding all the efforts of politicians and patronage brokers to move him from his position. He can afford to appeal from them to the people.

THE PENALTY OF WITHDRAWING.

Should Great Britain decide upon withdrawing from the Alabama treaty, it is rumored that our government will immediately abrogate its treaty of maritime reciprocity, and impose differential duties on all goods brought in English ships to our ports. To show how disastrously this would affect that country, we give the following statement, derived from official sources, of the tonnage she employs in trade with the United States. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871, there were entered and cleared from our various ports, vessels belonging to thirty different nationalities. The English flag covered more than eight-tenths of the total tonnage. There are only two countries of Europe whose ships, trading with our ports, outnumber those of Great Britain. These are France and Germany. There are but four points from which vessels entered that the British flag does not cover the ships—Russia on the Black Sea, Denmark, French Guiana and Hawaiian ports. The following is the total number of vessels entered and cleared:

ENTERED.		CLEARED.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
14,406	6,966,444	19,288	6,151,587

Of which aggregate the total number and tonnage of British vessels were:

ENTERED.		CLEARED.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
17,840	5,311,715	17,765	5,311,179

This is an enormous proportion, and of it steam tonnage constitutes a most important part. The total number of steam vessels entered at our ports during that period was 858, with a tonnage of 1,882,437 tons; cleared, 826; total tonnage 1,815,883; of which the English flag covered 716 vessels, entered, with a tonnage of 1,489,763; cleared, 682 ships; total tonnage, 1,418,826. Of United States steam vessels there entered during the same period 754 vessels, having a tonnage of 781,527; cleared, 746 vessels; tonnage 744,776; by far the larger portion of this number being, however, engaged in coast and provincial traffic. The paucity of our maritime steam capacity as compared with England is sufficiently shown in the fact that while we report three vessels having a total of less than 5,000 tons, entered from English ports direct, the record shows 449 British vessels of the same class, with a burden of 1,242,580 tons, as entered from the same ports. If, therefore, Great Britain can afford to back out of the treaty and enter upon an indefinitely prolonged era of bitterness and exasperation, we certainly can, for in the end, the injury inflicted on her vast commerce by the imposition of differential duties would be felt almost as severely as the payment of consequential damages.

PENNSYLVANIA IN REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

WASHINGTON, PA., February 13, 1872.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The action of the Republican State Convention in deciding that the State Convention called to meet in Harrisburg, April next, shall appoint the delegates to the Republican National Convention, has displeased many Republicans in this county. It is regarded as a close corporation business, and is producing a bad effect. Some maintain that the Central Committee followed the usage of the party; others say that the people have always elected their delegates. * * * * * * *

You will confer a favor on many Republicans here, and I have no doubt in other Western counties, by stating what the usage of the party has been in this matter, and whether the State Committee has the right to decide it. * * * * * * *

Yours Respectfully,

ANSWER.

The usage has not been uniform. The first Republican National Convention called to nominate a President and Vice President, was composed as respected representative delegates of members chosen by the people, either by a direct vote or through the agency of County Conventions. This Convention met in Philadelphia in June, 1856, and nominated Col. FREMONT for the Presidency. The delegates to the Chicago Convention of 1860, which nominated Mr. LINCOLN for President, were in part elected by the people and in part appointed by the State Convention of that year. A bitter and protracted controversy took place in the Convention as to the mode of appointment. The friends of Gen. CAMERON, then a candidate for the Presidency, maintained on the floor of the Convention the right of that body to name the representative delegates; while those opposed to Mr. CAMERON resisted this pretension, claiming that it was the people as the Congressional districts to name their own representatives; that this was in accordance with the usages of the Whig party and the Republican precedent of 1856. The matter was compromised by permitting the members who advocated the power and duty of the Convention to elect the delegates to make the selections for their own districts; while those who held the opposite view refused to select and referred the matter to the people. A small majority, indicated by the action of individual members, appeared to be against the pretension that the appointment of the delegates rested with the State Convention.

In 1864, the representative portion of the delegation to the Baltimore Convention was appointed by the State Convention of that year over the protest of many members. At that time the party in Pennsylvania was believed to be nearly unanimously in favor of the re-election of Mr. LINCOLN, with no defined choice for the Vice-Presidency.

In 1868, the delegates to the Chicago Convention were chosen by the State Convention after considerable opposition, but with the concurrence of a decided majority of the Convention, and they were instructed to vote for ex-Governor CURTIS, of this State, for the Vice-Presidency. It is said that there was a good deal of "changing of front" on this occasion—some who had sturdily resisted a like proposed action in 1860, when it would have promoted the political fortunes of Gen. CAMERON, were found strongly advocating it in the interests of Gov. CURTIS.

Of course the delegates at large have been uniformly chosen by the State Convention.

From this brief review of the record of the party, the following deductions may be fairly made:

1. When Pennsylvania has had no candidate for the Presidency or Vice Presidency, and when there was no personal interest to subserve, the people have been permitted to choose their own representatives to the National Conventions, by a direct vote or through the agency of a County Convention or Committee. The action of 1864 was anomalous, many delegates declaring that they voted with the majority in the interests of harmony under a critical juncture, reserving the right of the people to elect and instruct the delegates to the National Convention. The object was to give the solid vote of the State to Mr. LINCOLN.

Second. When we had such candidates, whether CAMERON or CURTIN, efforts were made to get the State Convention to appoint the delegates, thus withdrawing the matter from the people. Of course the object is to obtain an united harmonious delegation. The effort was only partially successful in 1860; it was entirely successful in 1868, but the action of the Convention was not unanimously approved.

In reference to the second inquiry made by our correspondent, we have to observe that the business of a State Convention is to nominate an Electoral Ticket and provide for sending delegates to the National Convention. Of course, the Senatorial delegates, or delegates at large, should be chosen by that body. The representative delegates may be chosen directly by the Convention, or that body may make provision for their election by the people of the districts. We understand the action of the Central Committee to be in this latter category only. However it may be, its action cannot bind the Convention, which will be fully competent to perform the work assigned to it, and cannot be fettered by the action of a mere Executive Committee, the functions of which are limited to the calling of the Convention and action of a ministerial character.

MR. WICKERSHAM'S WAY.

According to the report of the Common Schools of Pennsylvania there are in the State 75,000 neglected children growing up in ignorance. Provision already exists by law for educating nearly all of these, and yet they are not in our schools, nor likely to be. It is certainly a very serious question: what shall be done with them? The practical question is to get them into the school room. Some persons think that making the schools more attractive will draw them there. The State Superintendent is of this opinion. We are sorry he has lent his influence through his report to disseminate this opinion.

Let us see who these children are, that do not attend school, and what the reasons of their non-attendance are, and ask ourselves, whether they will likely be *drawn* to the school by the attractions of the house, the grounds and the character of the teacher.

1. Some of them are orphans, with no one to care for them—they run loose and wild.

2. Some of them are working to assist parents, and cannot command their own time.

3. Some are kept at home by their parents or guardians to do all sorts of drudgery.

4. Some are kept at home because they have no suitable clothing to attend school.

5. Some, and these are a great many, because their parents don't care enough about school to send them.

It will be seen from the above classification that the fault of non-attendance lies with the parents, guardians and employers, and not with the children. It is the ignorance and selfishness of those who have charge of the children that keep the children from school, and no attractions of the school can act on or overcome them. You must compel the parents and guardians to send the child to the school, and then the attractions may draw the child and keep it there.

But Superintendent WICKERSHAM is opposed to a "compulsory law," and for the following reasons:

1. Because "such laws have not proven very effective," &c. Prussia has such a law, and yet the school-going population does not give a higher percentage than in countries that do not have such laws.

Mr. WICKERSHAM gives us his "say so." Other men have reported very differently about the effect of such a law in Prussia. Mr. WICKERSHAM should have given the Legislature the figures and facts. The fact that you hardly ever find a German who cannot read and write is certainly against the Superintendent's assertion and assumption.

2. Massachusetts is cited against a "compulsory law." The agent of the Board of Education, the Secretary of that Board, and the State constable are all against it. But let us *hear* what these officers say.

The State agent's words are, "It is true we have a compulsory law with sufficient penalties, *if it were enforced*, but in many towns it is not only not enforced but no disposition to enforce it is shown."

The State Constable says: "Now, we know indeed that there is a compulsory statute of the Commonwealth in relation to the schooling of children, but like a great many other statutes on the books, it is paralytic, effete, dead—killed by neglect. *It was never enforced, and never supposed to be anybody's duty to enforce it.* In fact, we are inclined to believe that it is not generally known that such a law was ever enacted. *Nobody looks after it*," &c.

Now, what do these men testify? That "a compulsory law" is inefficient? No, but that it is not enforced. Suppose Massachusetts did not enforce her laws against stealing, would you cite such non-enforcement, and the consequent increase of theft, as an argument why Pennsylvania should not have laws against stealing?

The Superintendent demurs to a compulsory law, because he thinks it is not "in consonance with the spirit of our free institutions," and because it "would disturb the sacredness of the family—a matter so dear to the Anglo-Saxon race." Is it among the Anglo-Saxons that this opposition to a compulsory law finds the strongest expression?

But after all Mr. WICKERSHAM is in favor of a good deal of compulsion.

1. He recommends a truant law, that is, he is not in favor of truants exercising their freedom. The spirit of our free institutions may or may not be "in consonance" with such a law, and the sacredness of the family may be much disturbed—no matter, compulsion is good for truants.

2. He is in favor of a law *preventing* the employment of children in mills, manufactories, &c., without some provision for their education. Is this liberty or law? The Superintendent's law is better than his logic.

3. He is, further, in favor of legalizing, if not requiring, the establishment of a home for friendless and neglected children, and, in this way, he would "merely step in to take the parents' place where children either have no parents or none that cared for them."

We don't know that any friend of compulsory education asks for any more compulsion than Mr. WICKERSHAM here demands. The Maine hoper was in favor of the theory of the Maine law, but against the practice. Mr. WICKERSHAM is in favor of the practice but against the theory of compulsory education. We prefer Mr. WICKERSHAM's position. Give us attractive schools for the children, and a compulsory law for the parents.

THE TREATY QUESTION IN THE SOUTH.

The difference of opinion which exists between our Government and that of Great Britain respecting the interpretation to be put upon the provisions of the Washington treaty with regard to the Alabama claims, excites considerable interest in the Southern States, some of whose journals—with that singular propensity which has always characterized them of going off at half trigger—are already speculating upon the chances of war between the two countries, and discussing what would be the correct thing for the Southern people to do or abstain from doing in that event. The Augusta, Georgia, *Constitutionalist* thinks it is not in the nature of things that the Southern people should entertain a very frantic desire that England should be mulcted in a very heavy bill of damages; and like the frank, outspoken rebel which it is, says:

"They indulge not a very lively sympathy for Yankee losses resulting from the operations of Confederate cruisers. They regret that they were not larger—large enough to have utterly crippled and paralyzed Yankee commerce and resources, so as to have accomplished Southern independence. Failing in that, there is no disposition to second the demand of the United States Government for speculative damages."

The Raleigh (North Carolina) *Republican* sees every appearance of a difficulty between the United States and England or Spain, perhaps both, and adds with charming candor:

"Such a result is but natural for a race as unbridled and unlicensed as that which the United States Government has run for the past seven years, and a foreign war may result in a happy solution of those domestic troubles of ours which seven years of peace have failed to settle. For seven years the military power of the United States has been used to oppress the South, and Yankee ingenuity has taxed almost human measure and patience, iniquity and wrong to inflict upon us; every great principle of liberty has been disregarded; corruption and imbecility are in possession of all the high places of power and authority, and the grievous way back to the rules of good government, the best measure of reform that can be inaugurated for the Federal Government, is to plunge into a war with some of the leading powers of the Old World."

Another influential Southern paper—the Richmond *Dispatch*—still clings to the opinion which it entertained during the rebellion, for it thinks that—

"They (the English) are fair-minded people, and scorn to be guilty of a mean action. Can anybody, with truth, say the same of the American rulers?"

While even the temperate and reasonable Louisville *Courier-Journal*, sums up the results of its review of existing circumstances by saying that in the event of war:

"The sympathy and aid of the oppressed and persecuted people of the South we conclude, therefore, can hardly be expected by Grant and his Cabinet."

"GRANT and his Cabinet," as is well known, in this matter have thus far taken the precise grounds which the people of the country, to whom it holds its honor and dignity in charge, expected them to take; so that the thrust of the *Courier-Journal* is really meant for them instead of the government at Washington. Notwithstanding all this unfriendly scowling, however, there is little doubt but that the people who love their whole country will in the future as in the past be found ready to respond to any emergency which may possibly arise. It is good for them to know on whom they cannot, as well as on whom they can rely; but beyond this the expressions we have quoted are amusing, rather than otherwise.

PREMATURE HOPES CONCERNING ISRAEL.

A late report represents the consuls of various Christian nations resident in Bucharest as uniting in a petition calling on the government of Roumania to protect the Jews of the country against their persecutors. In the statement there is nothing strange or surprising, and yet the fact is well worthy of attention as a significant sign of the times. It is also interesting as showing the real meaning of the inauguration in Christendom of a new system, a method of dealing with the Jewish race, from which it is not unreasonable to expect remarkable results. While in the capital of the Catholic world a Ghetto, or Jews' quarter, was kept up under the highest Christian sanction, so called, with all the degrading and disgusting peculiarities which had marked the place for many centuries, it was a natural, of course that the ideas upon which the institution rested still retained more or less sway wherever the authority of the church was recognized. Thanks to VICTOR EMANUEL, the blot no longer exists to sustain and justify effete prejudices.

The full effect of the entire removal of all the political disabilities by which the race were weighted, and the utter annihilation of the complete emancipation by the prevalence of the spirit of Christianity among the Gentiles, yet remain to be seen. In the United States indications point so strongly to the future obliteration of Jewish peculiarities and to the absorption of the Israelites in the surrounding Gentile population, as to cause some anxiety among conservative adherents of the old faith. There is, however, no cause for immediate alarm on the one hand, and quite as little for the pleasing hopes entertained by others. When referring to the Israelites, we may say that many persons appear to entertain rather vague notions concerning the actual numbers of the race in Europe as well as concerning their distribution. A journal evidently well informed says that one of the chief zones inhabited by them is the north border of Africa from Morocco to Egypt, where, in the coast cities of the Barbary States, they form an essential element of the population. Another zone largely occupied by them is in Europe, the belt of country which extends from the lower Danube to the Baltic sea. Among the Slavic nations inhabiting this tract there are about four millions of Jews, while in all the rest of Europe there are not a hundred thousand of them. The Jews in the United States are chiefly colonists from Western Europe. In Northern Africa they are steadily pressing on into the Sahara and toward the South, so that since 1830 Timbuctoo, the famous city of the desert, on the northern border of the valley of the Niger, has become the seat of a Jewish colony engaged in traffic. Then considering the numbers of them in Abyssinia, Asia Minor, Central Asia, China, etc., it certainly seems rather premature to found any lively or confident anticipations concerning the entire old race upon any revolution of opinion or mitigation of prejudice that may have taken place among the small fraction of it with which the Christians of Western Europe and America happen to be acquainted.

GREATER LIBERALITY NEEDED.

Whatever may be the result of the MCCLURE-GRAY contest at Harrisburg, it cannot be denied that from the manner it has been conducted, to the unbiased mind the conclusion is inevitable that the opponents of Col. MCCLURE fear the result of a searching inquiry to ascertain who was actually elected Senator in the Fourth District. Herein, we are quite sure, a mistake has been committed by our political friends at Harrisburg. Appearances are decidedly against those who have refused to accord a prompt and searching inquiry; and the verdict is and must be, that Senator WHITE has lied—for he appears to have occupied the position of leader in the matter—unwisely and badly. If personal motives, animosities or ill will, have been allowed to control, then all the worse is it. It is to be feared that not a little of this sort of thing has been at the bottom of the action of the Republican majority in the Legislature. If this be so, it only shows that those who have been thus controlled themselves and have contributed their influence to control the action of others and the policy of the party, are ignorant of the very important fact, that the time has fully come when Republicans have made up their minds to rebel against the dogma which ruined the old Democratic party and will ruin any party that undertakes to enforce it—the dogma of implicit submission to leadership and the substitution of caucus for conscience. And never was there a greater mistake made than that a great organization like the Republican party in Pennsylvania can be long successful if run in individual interest. As to individuals, the members of the party must be permitted to differ, and no gauging loyalty by fealty to this or that man. The party belongs to no man or set of men, and no Republican should be held to an account for his preferences. A little more of this spirit might promote the general health of the party.

HISTORICAL CHARACTERS BECOME MYTHICAL.

Before the days of the printing press and the newspaper it is easy to understand how an historical character might in a few years become mythical. Standing out distinctly as the representative of a party, or of certain principles of absorbing interest, the leader of men, even while alive, was readily invested by the popular imagination with whatever qualities might seem necessary to justify the admiration of which he was the object. It he happened to be grossly deficient in any of the needful traits, or if none of his known acts seemed to indicate the possession of them, either invention was called on to supply the want, or the acts and words of another were boldly ascribed to the popular favorite. Either uncontradicted, or feebly contradicted, such statements were soon generally accepted as true, and were in due time combined with the man's genuine achievements to constitute his authentic biography. Thus in the uncritical ages a plain man, endowed with a little more sagacity, or courage, or integrity, than his neighbor, was converted into a hero or a demigod, whose character uniting a dozen inconsistent elements, and whose history containing the exploits somewhat exaggerated of a dozen men like himself, are quite unintelligible to rational posterity.

Even at the present day the old process may still be seen in activity, and, to a certain extent, with the old results. In the imaginations of a great multitude the late Mr. LINCOLN already stands out invested with the attributes of a character that never existed in any single man, and memoirs of him have already appeared quite adapted to sustain the popular impression. Within a more limited range THADDEUS STEVENS is rapidly growing into a mythical figure in imagination to transform the natural qualities of the man. The actual man is violently if not brilliantly idealized, and the image thus set up as a substitute for the reality is already plentifully sustained by records which fifty years hence may seem to possess the authority of contemporary documents. From time to time ever since the death of the Great Commoner, as he was absurdly called, the most extraordinary statements have been published in illustration of his character and talents. As they simply erred on the side of benevolent exaggeration and no one's self-love was wounded by them, nobody thought it worth while to deny or abate them, and thus they have passed into history. Only a few days ago, a correspondent of a distinguished Boston paper, halting for a while at Lancaster, filled a letter with a repetition of a number of the statements by which the reputation of STEVENS has been magnified in the popular estimation. According to this chronicler, "he (STEVENS) divided with BUCHANAN, who lived in the same town, the leading of the bar in his county; they were generally pitted against each other in all cases," with much more in the way of contrast between the old and the old. We have neither call nor inclination to defend the reputation of Mr. BUCHANAN, but in behalf of truth we cannot help saying that the correspondent's whole statement regarding the relations of the two men is utterly false. They were never pitted against each other at the bar, BUCHANAN having ceased to practice law long before STEVENS's removal from Gettysburg to Lancaster. With reference also to the character of the two men as citizens we may fairly affirm that the correspondent is as unjust to STEVENS in his eulogy as he is unjust to BUCHANAN by his disparagement.

GRANT AND THE TARIFF.

The free traders are felicitating themselves on the prospect of a victory in the struggle in Congress, which they claim has been precipitated by the free tea and coffee instruction to the Committee of Ways and Means. Without stopping to examine the grounds of this confidence, it may be said with certainty that the tariff question will enter as a leading issue into the next Presidential canvass. In view of this, the General's emphatic declarations in favor of protecting home industry and capital attaches greater importance than probably he had any thought when he uttered them. He stands against free trade in whatever disguise it may appear, and if the issue is made, as the Revenue Reformers promise, GRANT will of necessity be the Protection candidate. So let the issue be present their candidate and make the issue as quickly as possible. In such a contest even Mr. GREELEY will cease to object to Gen. GRANT. On such an issue Pennsylvania would give him a larger majority in 1872 than she gave in 1868. Let the free traders derive what comfort they can from the prospect.

WASHINGTON, PA., Feb. 17, 1872.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

In your answer to my former letter in regard to the manner of choosing delegates from this State to the Republican National Convention, you said that whenever Pennsylvania had a candidate the choice was taken from the districts and given to the State Convention. This time the Convention is to choose. Am I right in understanding that Pennsylvania has a candidate to present to the National Convention? If so, who is he?

In reply, we have to say, that to the best of our knowledge and belief the intention is to present Mr. CAMERON for Vice President, and give to him the united vote of the delegates. Perhaps he does not expect to receive the nomination, but the compliment of such a vote is understood to be very much coveted by him.

THE free trade homiletics which the London *Times* and other English journals deal out to the United States at stated intervals, would be vastly more edifying if they were a little less insincere. If one were to judge from the tenor of these articles alone he would naturally conclude that the British government had long since passed the protective period in her fiscal policy—that she had reached that era of implicit confidence in the doctrines of political economy almost threw her into convulsions. There appears, however, to be a considerable discrepancy between her theory and her practice. The other day, for instance, Senator Cole of California gave on the floor of the United States Senate a detailed list of the various subsidies paid by the British government to the various steamship lines. These subsidies are as follows:

Cunard line	$250,000
Inman line	175,000
Halifax, Bermuda and St. Thomas line	97,000
R. S. P. Company—Southampton to Brazil	167,500
R. M. S. P. Company—To West Indies, Vera Cruz, etc	886,000
Panama and Pacific ports	91,250
West Coast of Africa mail service	120,000
To Alexandria, Suez and India	2,000,000
Point de Galle and Sydney	650,000
Total	$4,497,250

In addition to this large sum the Government pays four other companies postage on all the matter they carry, at the rate of sixty cents an ounce on letters, six cents a pound on newspapers, and ten cents a pound on books. Considering the character of England's teachings, and her reiterated belief that the system of "taxing a nation to foster it artificially" belongs to the "darkest period of economic ignorance," the foregoing exhibit is decidedly interesting, and should suggest food for reflection on the part of our own free-traders who are in the habit of re-echoing all her cries and pointing boastfully to her example.

THERE appears to be some likelihood that the *Congressional Globe*—that dreary limbo of unremembered buncombe—may shortly be abolished. Under the lead of General Beatty, of Ohio, quite a respectable minority of the House are reported to be dead set against it, and it is said that accessions to the ranks of these reformers are taking place every day. The *Globe* has been established forty-one years. When first originated it supplied a public want, there being at that time very few newspapers in the country, while railroads, telegraphs, and the stenographic art, were practically unknown. Now, the proceedings of today are served up in the papers of to-morrow with as much regularity as people's breakfasts, and there is no more necessity for preserving the speeches of Congressmen in the *Congressional Globe* than there is for laying away cast off clothing in lavender. It is reported that the publishers of the *Globe* make forty thousand dollars clear out of their business every year. If it must continue let the price be cut down to a fair profit, or supersede the verbatim reports with an abstract, and put a total stop to the practice of publishing undelivered speeches, now so common and so reprehensible. There are ninety-nine volumes of the *Globe* now in existence, to which the last Congress contributed seven, and which the present one will probably increase by as many more. It is a needless expenditure, and should be very greatly curtailed, or else abolished altogether. A movement is also understood to be on foot for doing away with the publication of the laws in the newspapers.

A CALIFORNIA farmer recently scattered some wheat soaked with whisky over a field frequented by wild geese. The silly fowls gorged themselves with the seductive banquet, and got so tight that they could not fly, when the farmer stepped in and dispatched six hundred of them with a club. Other silly geese are also sometimes dispatched by means of a conjunction of whisky and clubs.

THERE is the latest recorded spur to good behavior: The more fractious of the prisoners put to work on the streets of Mobile have an immense spur attached to each ankle. It is a sure safeguard against escape; the prisoner is compelled to move carefully, to prevent wounding himself.

It is being agitated to have a Congressional enactment compelling railroad companies to keep axes in each car, for passengers, in case of accident, to cut their way out of telescoped or wrecked cars.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Love's labor lost: A sharp Memphisian desirous of seeing Alexis, took off his coat, put a big Saratoga trunk on his shoulder and walked up stairs, evading the police, who were instructed to keep everybody out of the Peabody House. He carried a two hundred pound trunk up two flights, didn't see the Grand Duke, and had his coat stolen.

Mr. Charles Bryant, Special Agent of the United States Treasury Department in Alaska, says the United States derives over $200,000 of revenue every year from the seal fisheries of Alaska alone, and that this amount is increasing very fast.

Sixteen saloon-keepers of Ironton, O., have formed a protective association, agreeing to sell nothing but lager beer and wine, nor even those beverages to an intoxicated person or to habitual drukards, a list of whom is furnished each member of the society. Should a member who has obeyed the constitution and by-laws of the society be mulcted in damages by the Courts, each member will bear an equal share in the payment of them.

The Mississippi Legislature adjourned last Saturday until Thursday, in order to allow the members to attend the Mardi Gras festival at New Orleans. This is equal to the Kentucky judge who once adjourned his court at Frankfort for the purpose of allowing the court to witness the elephant Hannibal swim the Kentucky River.

A National Agricultural Convention meets in Washington to-day, and will have before it questions of great importance. The lately agitated question of Industrial Education instead of the old classical and professional preparation, will receive the most thorough sifting it has yet seen. The new theory in connection with the Agricultural College has worked well, and it is the object of this convention to devise means for extending the usefulness of this class of schools.

The popularity of American securities in Europe is illustrated by the fact that $10,000,000 nominal was recently subscribed for Oregon 7 per cent. bonds in Frankfort. The City of Washington loan was also eagerly taken, some of the heaviest subscribers getting only 4 per cent. of what they applied for.

In a recent lecture on physiology an English professor narcotized a frog with opium, and then took out its heart and placed it on a glass plate in a little pool of serum, just to keep the organ moist. Strange to say, it kept on pulsating precisely as when in the body.

The physicians of one of the Swiss cantons have united and struck work, demanding an increase of fees. We suggest a strike of the patients as the best reply to the claims of the doctors.

Out in Kansas, the other day, a large eagle suddenly descended on the head of a little boy about ten years old, and undertook to carry him off. He fastened his talons in the boy's cap, but the youngster, instead of rising into mid-air, caught the eagle, and after a long and severe struggle succeeded in killing him. He measured eight feet from tip to tip. When the lad reached home he was taken to task for not bringing in his assailant alive, but he replied, "I don't going to let him eat me up already."

The United States possesses more than 50,000 miles of railroad out of the 124,000 in the world. Great Britain follows the United States with 16,000 miles; Germany has 12,000; France, 10,000; Russia, 5,000; Austria, 4,000; Spain, 3,700; Italy, 3,400; Belgium, 2,000; Holland, 1,600.

A much more liberal spirit is getting abroad in our colleges. Several salutary alterations are proposed at Yale, and we observe that a number of important changes are announced in the course of study at Amherst. Mathematics is to be optional after the first year, and parallel courses in modern languages and natural science are to be arranged that either can be pursued at the will of the student. Every change that makes education more directly preparatory for practical life is good, and training in the direction of the natural talents and tastes of the student is the most efficient.

A novel surgical operation was recently performed by a San Francisco physician. The patient had been shot. The bullet entered the right side of the hip, and in probing for it to wound the surgeon discovered where the bullet lay. He was compelled to enlarge the orifice of the wound in order to introduce the forceps, and had just got that instrument on the bullet, when the wounded man, who was under the influence of liquor, struck him a powerful blow on the side of the head, which caused him to fall to the floor. He then ran out of the house, and before recovered himself he found the forceps in one corner of the room and near the instrument was the bullet, which had been extracted by the force of the blow. The doctor says that as a surgical operation it was a complete success, but still he is not partial to the method.

The packing of hogs at the principal points in the West, during the present season, sums up as follows: At Chicago, 1,000,000; at Cincinnati, 565,000; at Louisville, 300,512; at St. Louis, 355,000; at Milwaukee, 273,000. All last season Chicago packed 918,087; Cincinnati, 500,000; Louisville, 242,135; St. Louis, 305,000; Milwaukee, 241,000. The season for cutting does not close until the end of the month.

The Supreme Court of the United States lately decided in the case of Trobelcock *vs.* Wilson, error to Iowa, that a note specifying payment to be made in gold and silver, must be paid in those commodities, notwithstanding the Legal Tender Greenback law; it being held that that could only be applied to debts made payable in money without specifying the kind that should be used.

A French scientist attributes the light of the aurora boreal is to the electro-magnetic influence of the earth on the cosmic matter that it encounters, and the light of cometary tails to the similar influence of the sun upon the extremely tenuous cosmic matter that surrounds their nuclei. In accordance with his theory he refers to various chronological connections between brilliant auroras and meteoric showers, or cometary appearances.

Intelligence from Madrid states that a wholesale business is being done in forging the notes of the Bank of Spain. Some weeks back a certain issue of notes was entirely called in and another series issued in their place, but scarcely had they appeared when they were imitated exactly, and the quantity in the hands of the public was found to exceed the amount issued by the bank.

A Michigan newspaper office has a curious visitor in the shape of a tom cat, which finds its way outside of the skylight every cold morning as soon as the stove begins to warm the glass, and then gravely slides down, repeating the exercise for some time, with as much composure as a little boy coasting.

A Russian pathologist has discovered the cause of hydrophobia. He has been putting mad dogs under his microscope for some time, and now announces that the "main cause of rabies is the anatomical alteration of the kidneys through their parenchymatous inflammation." We always thought it was something like that, but what are we going to do about it?

At a temperance meeting recently held at Senator Wilson's house in Washington, the statement was made by a gentleman present that no less than hundred drinking-saloons had been erected in Chicago since the fire, and that many of them were aided by the Relief Committee. If this be true, it is a queer disposition to make of the charity funds, and ought to be seen into.

It is rumored that the bill of damages, in connection with Cuban affairs, is being made out at the State Department against Spain, which will make an American case as ugly as that before the Geneva Conference.

It is affirmed by geologists that the eastern shore of the United States is sinking into the ocean at the rate of about one-sixth of an inch per annum, or sixteen inches every hundred years. The island of New York goes under at the rate of seventeen inches per century.

A private dinner party was given in Boston a few days since, at the table of which were seated some thirty distinguished individuals, among whom were Edmund Quincy, ex-Gov. Clifford and Gov. Washburn. A number of wine-glasses for various wines were at each plate; but when the company arose not one of them had been touched. It would be interesting to know whose example saved the wine.

In the Island of Java the deficiency in the crop will, this year, be 23,000 tons—the Brazil crop will fall short some 70,000 tons, the Ceylon will fall short nearly 10,000 tons. It is thus estimated that the coffee crop of the world will fall short of last year fully 100,000 tons.

The Attorney General of Mississippi says that drinking houses and the habit of carrying weapons are the causes of nine-tenths of crime, violence and disorder in the State. The liquor licenses of last year amounted to less than $70,000, while the liquor consumed exceeded 600,000 gallons, bought at retail for more than two and a half millions. The damage done by this liquor in various ways is estimated at more than ten millions.

The Superintendent of the New Haven Fire Alarm Telegraph has recently invented and almost perfected an apparatus for indicating the locality of fires, which does away with sound and brings into use *sight*. It consists of a corresponding number of figures to those of the different alarm boxes about the city, and at the first stroke of the bell the electricity works a machine which presents to view the same number as that on the box from which the alarm is given.

Boston is going ahead. The imports of that city since the first of January exceed by eight hundred thousand dollars the imports for the same period of last year. The increase of exports for the same period was over one million eight hundred thousand dollars.

The sea is said to be rapidly encroaching on Tybee island, Georgia, famed during the war. The ravine in which the Confederate troops drilled in 1861, is now a salt water pool during high tides. The remains of the United States soldiers who fell victims to the cholera in 1868, are exposed to view by the shifting of the sand, which has laid bare their shallow graves.

Revival of Our Shipping Interests.

The revival of the shipping interests of the United States is just at present eliciting general attention and interest in and out of Congress. Donald McKay, one of the most prominent practical ship-builders of the country, has written a voluminous letter upon the subject, in which he says that with proper relief from the Government, iron vessels can be built here as cheap and as good, both hull and machinery, as in Great Britain, our Kennsylvania iron being superior in quality to that of England for marine purposes, while, in addition to having the best material, we have also the best skilled labor in the world. He suggests an immediate reform in the complicated systems of rating and classification of vessels in vogue in this country, of which there are four, each claiming to be the best in manner of construction, and yet widely at variance. This, he states, causes great confusion and loss to ship-holders in foreign ports, and he urges as a remedy the adoption by the government of a universal system of rating, which he thinks could be done without interfering with the private rights of ship-owners. He argues, further, that the government ought to place all foreign passenger steamers under the same rules and regulations, as England applies the same law to the United States passenger vessels as well as her own. No matter what may be the nationality of passenger vessels, Great Britain compels them to comply with her own passenger laws, while the government of the United States permits all foreign passenger steamers to leave United States ports without compliance with the United States passenger steamboat laws, thus giving them extra privileges because they sail under a foreign flag. Mr. McKay urges the abolishment of this discrimination against our own vessels, and the